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CONFIDENTIAL.

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PART 15.

FURTHER CORRESPONDENCE

RESPECTING THE

AFFAIRS OF MOROCCO.

January to June 1897.

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ERRATA.

Page 26, *passim*. For "M. de Moubel" read "M. de Moubel."

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CONFIDENTIAL.

Further Correspondence respecting the Affairs of Morocco.

Part 15.

No. 1.

Foreign Office to British and Foreign Anti-Slavery Society.

Sir, *Foreign Office, January* 4, 1897.

WITH reference to my letter of the 7th November last, I am directed by the Marquess of Salisbury to inform you that a despatch has been received from Sir A. Nicolson relating to the alleged public sale of slaves in the seaport towns of Morocco.

He reports that Mr. Ford, British Vice-Consul at Laraiche, states that there appears to have been an attempt at that place to sell a slave by public auction, but that on his representation to the Governor the sale was stopped.

At Saffi there was also an attempt at a public sale, but on the representation of Mr. Hunot, the British Vice-Consul there, the sale was stopped and the auctioneer imprisoned.

Sir A. Nicolson adds that there do not appear to have been any public sales of slaves in any other of the coast towns.

I am, &c.
(Signed) T. H. SANDERSON.

No. 2.

Sir A. Nicolson to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(Received January 8, 1897.)

(No. 145.)
My Lord, *Tangier, December* 23, 1896.

AT a meeting of the Diplomatic Body to-day, the question was brought forward of suggesting some measures to the Moorish Government for the better preservation of public security in this neighbourhood. I suggested to the meeting that we might propose to the Sultan that an increase should be made in the police force here, and that it should be organized on an efficient and proper basis; that the men should be properly paid, and that night patrols should be established in the suburbs. It might be advisable to propose further, that the Head of the force should be a European; but it was considered better to defer making this suggestion till it was seen how the Moorish Government viewed the first proposal. It was decided that a note should be addressed to the Grand Vizier dealing with the question.

At present there is a certain police force in the town, which, though far from meeting all requirements, affords some slight security; but the suburbs outside the city wall, and which are annually extending, are practically without protection. The night guards, who

are provided by the authorities, are labourers by day, and naturally are in need of repose after their work. They are consequently usually asleep at the time there is most need of them. Patrols in the suburbs are unknown. The villas occupied by Europeans are interspersed with small settlements of Spaniards, generally of the lowest class and of doubtful reputation, and also with Riffian and other squatters; and while the town is fairly well lit by electric lamps, the suburbs are not similarly privileged. It is indeed a matter of surprise that so very few cases of assault and robbery do occur in the circumstances.

The Spanish Minister, at the meeting to-day, explained to us the difficulties with which he had to contend in controlling a colony numbering several thousands, and composed in great majority of the lowest class of Andalusians. All the force at his disposal were four Moorish soldiers attached to the Consulate, and one Spanish "Inspector" who had no police training, and whose functions apparently are chiefly of a detective nature. He said that both his Government and himself had frequently considered the danger of the situation, and they were both of opinion that the most effective means of obtaining some real control over the Spanish colony would be to have a few "Guardia civil" from Spain. M. de Ojéda said that he was sure that, with a few members of that admirable gendarmerie, he would be able to keep order among his people; and intimated that his Government would be ready to send them provided other Powers do not object. He was evidently desirous of ascertaining the views of the other Representatives on the subject, and none seemed to consider the idea impracticable with the exception of the French Chargé d'Affaires, who raised several objections to the scheme. M. de Ojéda finally said that he intended to revive the matter with his Government, who would probably consult the other Governments on the subject, and that we should consider what he had mentioned to us as for our information only.

The dangerous elements here are doubtless chiefly Spaniards, and it would be of great benefit to the community at large if they could be effectually controlled and supervised. A Moorish police force would have neither the authority nor probably the power to do so.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. NICOLSON.

No. 3.

Sir A. Nicolson to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(*Received January* 11, 1897.)

(No. 146.)
My Lord, *Tangier, December* 31, 1896.

WITH reference to my despatch No. 145 of the 23rd instant, I have the honour to transmit copy of a collective note which the foreign Representatives have addressed to Cid Mohammed Torres, urging the establishment of a proper police force for Tangier and its suburbs.

The note was drawn up by the Italian Minister, and received the approval of all the Representatives. Personally, I do not anticipate that this communication will lead to any really satisfactory results, as the Moorish authorities, even though animated with the best intentions, are incapable of organizing an efficient police force without expert advice and assistance. They will not be able to instruct the men as to how they should discharge their duties, and they will probably fail in paying them regularly and adequately. They will gradually relapse into the present condition of affairs, and police supervision will remain intermittent and incomplete. As, however, my colleagues considered it would be more advisable to limit our requests, in the first instance, to what had already been accorded by the former Sultan, I made no objection to signing the communication.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. NICOLSON.

Inclosure in No. 3.

The Foreign Representatives at Tangier to Cid Mohammed Torres.

(Après les compliments d'usage.)

VERS la fin de 1889, votre Excellence doit s'en souvenir, plusieurs Représentants des Puissances étrangères appelèrent l'attention du Gouvernement Impérial sur les

conditions anormales, et peu rassurantes, de la sécurité publique à Tanger. Ils lui démontrèrent la nécessité de pourvoir à un service régulier de police pour le maintien de l'ordre et la protection des habitants.

Au mois d'Avril de l'année suivante votre Excellence informait le Corps Diplomatique que Sa Majesté le Sultan avait daigné lui confier l'organisation de la police locale, et que d'accord avec le Gouverneur de la ville et Sid Abd-ul-Kerim Brisha vous veniez d'arrêter les dispositions ci-après:—

(*a.*) Le nombre des gardes de nuit, *intra muros*, serait augmenté; il y en aurait à postes fixes; des patrouilles parcourraient la ville dans les heures de la nuit.

(*b.*) Pour ce qui concerne le service de la police à l'extérieur de la ville, des gardes au nombre de quarante environ seraient placés dans différentes localités à savoir:

A la plage, dans les endroits habités sur le chemin qui de la plage conduit au Grand Soko.

Au Grand Soko, sur le Maadi à l'Emsallah, dans le quartier qui prend le nom de Nouvel Hôpital Espagnol.

Sur le chemin qui mène à la montagne et sur divers points sur Marshan.

Des patrouilles seraient chargées de circuler incessamment.

C'est tout cet ensemble de sages mesures (qui devraient être mais qui n'ont jamais été exécutées) dont les Représentants des Puissances demandent l'immédiate et sérieuse application.

Il ne s'agit au surplus que d'exécuter des ordres précis et formels de Sa Majesté le Sultan et il importe, il est urgent, d'un autre côté, de mettre un terme aux aggressions, aux vols, aux meurtres qui tiennent dans une légitime et profonde appréhension toute la ville et la banlieue de Tanger.

Il est temps enfin que nos nationaux respectifs soient efficacement protégés en leurs personnes et en leurs propriétés.

Salut.

Le 29 *Décembre*, 1896.

No. 4.

Sir A. Nicolson to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(*Received January* 11.)

(No. 1.)
My Lord, *Tangier, January* 4, 1897.

SID MOHAMED TORRES and Hadj Mohamed Lebady, the two Deputies of the Sultan here, called on me this afternoon, by order of the Grand Vizier, to communicate certain wishes of the Moorish Government in regard to Hadj-el-Meslohi, Shereef of Tamsloht. They said they were instructed to explain to me that the authority which the guardianship of the sanctuary at Tamsloht conferred on the Shereef led to many difficulties with the Government, and that the latter found it embarrassing to deal with a personage who was in some sense a Government official and at the same time a protected subject. They therefore desired to impress on me the necessity either of British protection being withdrawn from the Shereef, or of his guardianship of the sanctuary being transferred to other hands. It was, they said, an anomalous and unique situation for a Moorish subject of the position of the Shereef to enjoy foreign protection, and the Moorish Government desired to bring the situation and its attendant difficulties to an end.

I told the Moorish officials that the question of withdrawing British protection need not be discussed. They could be assured that my Government would not do so. While at Court the question of the Shereef's position had been mentioned to me in the same terms they had just employed, and I would give them a reply similar to that I had made to the Grand Vizier. The reasons were well known to the Moorish Government, which had induced Her Majesty's Government to accord protection to the Shereef; and those reasons had been understood and approved of by the Grand Vizier. No question could arise as to this protection having been abused or misused. If the Moorish Government had any ground of complaint against the Shereef I would certainly give it my most careful attention, and would see that, if just, it should be immediately remedied. If the Moorish Government wished to deprive the Shereef of any of his attributes or privileges they were of course at liberty to do so; but I should inform my Government that the Shereef had been practically degraded because he was a protected British subject.

On this I had been requested to consider all that had been said to me as unspoken, and to report nothing to my Government. I had hoped that the question was thus laid to rest; and I had before leaving Court caused the Shereef to pay his respects both to the Sultan and the Grand Vizier, and impressed on him the necessity of keeping up loyal and good relations with the Moorish Government. I had had no complaints from the Moorish Government as to any action on the part of the Shereef, though I had received representations from the Shereef of the unjust manner in which he was being treated by the Governor and Kadi of Tamsloht. The Shereef, as Mohamed Torres knew, was a peaceable timorous old man, and he was equally well aware that no advantage had been taken of the protection which had been accorded to him.

The Moorish functionaries said they had received orders to impress on me the anomaly of the position, and that it was impossible for a Moorish personage invested with certain attributes to remain a protected subject.

I told them I did not see how the hereditary saintly position of the Shereef could lead to any difficulties if a little good-will were shown on both sides. Moreover, I could mention another Moorish personage of far greater position than the Shereef of Tamsloht, who was under foreign protection, and who exercised not only spiritual, but also administrative, jurisdiction, not only over the district in which was his residence, but over numerous other parts of the Moorish Empire. There were many villages even in the neighbourhood of Tangier, over which the Government had practically no authority, and which looked to this personage as their Chief; and the numerous dependents and followers of this personage were, as I knew from personal experience, removed from the jurisdiction of the Moorish authorities, and subject only to his authority. I alluded, of course to the Shereef of Wazzan. I had not heard that the Moorish Government had raised any objections to this situation, nor did I conceive that a request would be made for the withdrawal of foreign protection from this personage.

Sid Mohamed Torres and his companion had little to reply to this observation, and I advised them to leave matters as they were. I was, I repeated, perfectly ready to receive any complaints which might be preferred against the Shereef, had they any to make. They confessed they had not, and the conversation then dropped.

I trust that the matter will not be revived, and I will let the Grand Vizier know privately that it would be advisable not to raise a question which, if left alone, will cause no embarrassment to anyone.

I am afraid that the wealth of the Shereef of Tamsloht is the principal motive for the request for the withdrawal of his protection, as I cannot believe that, and no explanation has been given me in what manner his position as hereditary guardian of the sanctuary causes any real difficulty or serious inconvenience to the Moorish Government.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. NICOLSON.

No. 5.

The Marquess of Salisbury to Sir A. Nicolson.

(No. 3.)
Sir, *Foreign Office, January* 14, 1897.

I HAVE received and had under my consideration your despatch No. 145 of the 23rd ultimo, reporting that at a meeting of the Diplomatic Body, held on that day, it was resolved to address a note to the Grand Vizier, urging the Moorish Government to take measures for the better preservation of public security in the neighbourhood of Tangier.

Her Majesty's Government approve the proposal for the establishment of a properly organized police force in Tangier, under a European officer, as suggested by you.

The proposal made by the Spanish Minister for the presence of a few members of the Spanish "guardia civil" to control the Spanish colony of the town would not seem open to serious objection if it were not so likely to give rise to similar claims from the Representatives of other Powers.

The presence in Tangier of bodies of police belonging to various countries would almost certainly lead to confusion and disputes.

The plan, therefore, of a single police force, under European officers, seems preferable if it can be carried through.

I am, &c.
(Signed) SALISBURY.

No. 6.

The Marquess of Salisbury to Sir A. Nicolson.

(No. 4.)
Sir, *Foreign Office, January* 16, 1897.

I HAVE received your despatch No. 146 of the 31st ultimo, and I approve the terms of the collective note which the foreign Representatives addressed on the 29th December to Cid Mohammed Torres, urging on the Moorish Government the establishment of a proper police force for the protection of life and property in Tangier and its suburbs.

I am, &c.
(Signed) SALISBURY.

No. 7.

The Marquess of Salisbury to Sir A. Nicolson.

(No. 5.)
Sir, *Foreign Office, January* 16, 1897.

I HAVE received your despatch No. 1 of the 4th instant, recording a conversation on that date with Cid Mohammed Torres and Hadj Mohammed Lebady, two Deputies of the Sultan of Morocco, who called to communicate certain wishes of the Moorish Government with regard to the British protection accorded to Hadj-el-Meslohi, the Shereef of Tamsloht.

The language held by you on this occasion is approved by Her Majesty's Government.

I am, &c.
(Signed) SALISBURY.

No. 8.

Sir A. Nicolson to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(Received January 19.)

(No. 1.)
(Telegraphic.) P. *Tangier, January* 19, 1897.

GLOBE Venture Syndicate: my despatch No. 5 of the 12th instant.

There may be, I fear, serious complications if this Company intends to dispatch an exploring expedition to the Süs country. One of their objects is also, as I hear from the same private source, the importation of rifles and machine-guns there.

No. 9.

Sir A. Nicolson to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(Received January 20.)

(No. 2.)
My Lord, *Tangier, January* 7, 1897.

CID ABDELKERIM BRISHA, by order of the Sultan, addressed himself recently to the Diplomatic Body, with the desire that some revision should be made of the system under which mosque property, technically known as H'bous, is at present held by Europeans and natives. It has been a custom of some standing for the Sultan to grant mosque property to individuals, either as an act of charity, or for reward for services, or for compensation, or at the request of some Legation. Property thus granted is held under various forms of tenure, into which I need not enter; but an invariable principle is that it pays some small rent to the mosque.

This rent, in many instances, I may say in most, is ridiculously small, and was, in fact, some years ago increased with the consent of the foreign Representatives.

Holders of these H'bous properties either live in them themselves, or sublet them, or sell the "key," the outward symbol of ownership, to other parties. In most cases the property is sublet for a rent very greatly in excess of that which is paid to the mosque; and the latter consequently feels that it receives no benefit whatever from the increased and increasing value of the property. As the revenues of the mosque are devoted chiefly to charitable purposes, there is naturally a feeling that it is somewhat unjust that house speculation entirely absorbs the profits which accrue from increased letting value, and that the poor in no wise derive any advantage. In short, the speculator benefits at the expense of the deserving poor. Moreover, the objects for which the H'bous properties were originally granted, are diverted, and while the rent to be paid to the mosque is a fixed and invariable quantity, the rents received by the owner, whether he be the direct grantee or one who has acquired possession by purchase of the "key," form an ever increasing source of revenue.

The abuse is patent, and none of my colleagues show any unwillingness to assist towards remedying it, having due regard to existing rights. The Diplomatic Body named a Committee composed of the Spanish and French Ministers and myself to treat of the matter with Cid Abdelkerim Brisha.

We met his Excellency to-day, and having explained to him that the Diplomatic Body showed a favourable disposition towards meeting the wishes of the Sultan, we suggested to him that as the question was an exceeding complex one, a mixed Commission of experts, consisting of one Moslem and two Europeans, should be appointed to inquire into the matter of mosque property in Tangier, and to report upon the mode in which the mosque rents may be most equitably increased. If a satisfactory arrangement could be arrived at for Tangier, it would be an easy matter to extend it so as to be applicable to the whole Empire. As Cid Abdelkerim Brisha agreed with this proposal we promised to submit it to our colleagues, together with a suggestion which he made that pending an arrangement of the question, the further sale of "keys" should be considered illegal.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. NICOLSON.

No. 10.

Sir A. Nicolson to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(*Received January* 20.)

(No. 3.)
My Lord, *Tangier, January* 8, 1897.

THE recent trials which have taken place in the British Court at Tangier brought to light some difficulties in the treatment of grave criminal cases, to which I would respectfully beg leave to call your Lordship's attention.

By the Morocco Order in Council criminal cases of a certain category would ordinarily be, after a preliminary examination here, remitted to Gibraltar for trial. In such instances a serious difficulty is likely to present itself. This difficulty occurred in 1893, and would have probably been repeated in the recent trials had not the Chief Justice come over to Tangier. The difficulty is to procure the attendance of witnesses at Gibraltar. In most cases, owing to the mixed character of the population here, the witnesses would, in all probability, be of various nationalities; and though it would be possible to enforce the presence of those who are British subjects, it would be exceedingly difficult to insure the attendance of foreign and native witnesses. In 1893 a charge of murder fell through owing to the Moorish witnesses declining to proceed to Gibraltar. It is greatly in the interests of all parties that the cases should be judged by the Chief Justice here, as all the witnesses are available, and also much time and expense are saved. I think the advantage of having grave criminal cases tried at Tangier instead of at Gibraltar is undoubted; and if to secure this it was merely necessary to request the Chief Justice to come to Tangier the matter would be simple.

The Chief Justice, however, does not sit at Tangier as a Court of Second Instance, but acts under Article 11 of the Morocco Order in Council, which gives him an original jurisdiction. He is not, therefore, as would occur if he were sitting at Gibraltar, hearing a case which has already been submitted to a preliminary investigation by the Court for Morocco, and which has been remitted for trial, but he is taking the case from

the beginning, and disposes of it summarily. There is, therefore, no preliminary trial before the Consul, as Magistrate, and no evidence has been previously heard under oath, and subject to cross-examination; all that can be done is for the Consul to take the statements of the complainants, and the trial does not begin till the Chief Justice arrives. This throws a serious responsibility on the Consul, and he has to decide from the statements made to him not merely whether he should issue a warrant for the arrest of the accused, but also whether there is case for trial—whether, in fact, the information which is laid before him justifies a request to the Chief Justice to proceed to Tangier to try the case. He has had no opportunity of hearing both sides of the case, or of examining and cross-examining witnesses, as would occur had he tried the case as a Police Magistrate; but he has to base his decision on *ex parte* and unsworn statements, and which have not been subjected to cross-examination. This is a difficult task to throw on one who is not a skilled and practised lawyer.

I trust I have made the difficulties clear to your Lordship. Expressed in a few words, the alternative courses to be followed in grave criminal cases are (1) the Consul to hear the case as Police Magistrate, and, if necessary, commit the prisoner for trial at Gibraltar. In that case the difficulty of obtaining the attendance of witnesses at Gibraltar arises, and the ends of justice would most probably be frustrated; or (2) the Consul to take the statements of the complainants, and decide, possibly wrongly, as to whether there is a case for trial, and whether the Chief Justice should be requested to come to Tangier. If the case is tried at Tangier, there would be no difficulty in regard to witnesses, and there would be no fear that justice would be defeated.

I submit that the second course is preferable, and the objections to it, namely, the undue responsibility thrown on the Consul, and the possibility of an unnecessary visit of the Chief Justice, would both be obviated if the Consul had some legal adviser to whom he could refer, and who could give an opinion as to whether there was sufficient information laid to justify a trial being held. Legal advice could easily be obtained if the Consul could submit the statements of the complainants to the Attorney-General of Gibraltar. A modest retaining fee, such as that officer receives from the War Office, namely, 25*l.* a-year, would secure the assistance of that gentleman not only in the cases to which I am referring, but in many other instances in which the Consul is in need of legal advice. I may add that I myself have on more than one occasion had to request legal advice, and I had to take advantage privately of the courtesy of the Chief Justice to obtain it. Little time would be lost in obtaining such advice, as Gibraltar is so close, and communication so frequent and easy both by the ordinary post and by telegraph.

I venture to lay the above considerations before your Lordship, with the suggestion that the Attorney-General should be retained as Legal Adviser of the Legation and Consulate. Grave criminal cases in which British subjects are concerned are, fortunately, not common in Tangier; but they do arise occasionally, and with a registered British colony in this town of several hundreds of persons, who will probably increase, it would be imprudent to depend on such cases continuing to be as rare as they are at present.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. NICOLSON.

No. 11.

Sir A. Nicolson to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(*Received January* 20.)

(No. 4. Confidential.)
My Lord, *Tangier, January* 8, 1897.

M. DE MALMUSI, the Italian Minister, read to me to-day an extract from a letter which he had received from M. Gentile, who is at present with the Court at Morocco city, stating that a report had reached him that the Sultan of Morocco was in communication with the Sultan of Turkey in regard to the recognition of the unofficial Moorish agent in Egypt. This report, M. Gentile added, had been, in a measure, confirmed by some casual observations which the Grand Vizier had dropped to him.

I asked M. de Malmusi if the letter he had received indicated through what channel and in what form the communication from the Moorish Sultan had been made. M. de Malmusi said that, so far as he gathered, the communication was in the form of a personal letter, and was to be delivered, or had been delivered, by the Moorish Agent himself, who was at present in Constantinople.

M. de Malmusi considered the information interesting as showing a desire on the part of His Shereefian Majesty to enter into some relations with the Sultan of Turkey. He added that M. Gentile was of opinion that the communication had been suggested by the French Legation, and that the Moorish Government had been induced to make it on the ground that the Sultan of Turkey was the Sovereign Lord of Egypt, and that he alone could sanction the recognition of a Moorish Agent in Cairo.

I have had no confirmation of the news from any other quarter.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. NICOLSON.

No. 12.

Sir A. Nicolson to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(*Received January* 20.)

(No. 5.)
My Lord, *Tangier, January* 12, 1897.

WITH reference to your Lordship's despatch No. 117 of the 2nd ultimo, I have the honour to transmit translation of a letter which I have received from the Grand Vizier relative to the projects of the Globe Venture Syndicate and of the reply which I have sent to his Excellency.

Cid Mohammed Torres also sent me a letter on the same subject practically in the same sense as the communication from the Grand Vizier, and I propose to reply to him in similar terms to those I have employed in addressing the Grand Vizier. I trust my note may meet with your Lordship's approval.

I have received no further information as to the alleged landing of Europeans in the neighbourhood of the Wad Nun River, to which I referred in my despatch No. 141 of the 14th December.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. NICOLSON.

Inclosure 1 in No. 12.

Cid Hamed-Ben-Moussa to Sir A. Nicolson.

(Translation.)
(After compliments.) 14 *Rajab*, 1314 (*December* 20, 1896).

FREQUENT and certain information has reached His Shereefian Majesty—God exalt him—through the papers and otherwise, that certain English commercial Companies of London have joined together to start business for themselves on the coast of this Empire—the Happy—above Wad Nun, and have collected merchandize and money for that purpose, and have spread the report that thay have made an agreement with certain of the Chiefs of the Kabilas neighbouring on that coast to receive them if they come, and also that the Government had granted them (the Companies) permission to do so, and that they hastened to proceed there, until this report is notorious among the people, and those who know nothing believe in the truth of it. And possibly some merchants who believe in it may go there and perish, and suffer personal losses and the disappointment which will follow. You are not unaware, oh intelligent friend! that this region and its inhabitants are at the disposal and under the protection and guardianship of the Government—God exalt it—and that none of these inhabitants have the power to make any agreement with any of the merchants about anything of this, nor even to speak of it. And our Lord has ordered me—God exalt him—to write to you, oh just one! about the foregoing, so that you may write to your friendly, sincere Government quickly, reporting this, and to point out clearly to it what may result from these merchants continuing to spread this report, such as accidents to those who possibly may be deceived, and get into difficulties themselves and their merchandize, so as to stop those who are spreading the report from deceiving the people, and a warning is given to whoever entangles himself and goes there, that his life and the consequences rest with himself. It was not fit that a Company of a friendly nation should attempt such a thing, relying on empty words without taking the precaution to verify them or prove them false through your

Excellency, who it would not be expected would allow any of the merchants to continue under this delusion. We await your reply with the result of your well-known attention.

May you continue well and happy. Finished
(Signed) HAMED-BEN-MOUSSA-BEN-HAMED.

Inclosure 2 in No. 12.

Sir A. Nicolson to Cid Hamed-Ben-Moussa.

(After compliments.) *Tangier, January* 12, 1897 (8 *Shaaban*, 1314).

I HAVE received the letter, oh friend! which you wrote to me on 14th Rajab, 1314 (20th December, 1896), stating that you had heard that certain English Companies had joined together to open trade on the Morocco coast above Wad Nun, and that a report had been spread by them that they had made agreements with certain Chiefs of the Kabilas in those districts, and that the Government of His Majesty, whom God exalt, had granted the Companies permission to do so, and you add that merchants may believe these reports and go thither to trade, and suffer losses and possibly perish. And you further say that the inhabitants of these regions are under the protection and guardianship of the Government—the Happy—and that they have not the power to make any such agreements, and you wish to issue a warning that whoever goes there does so at his own risk, and that he alone must bear the consequences of his act.

I have understood all the above, and I will hasten to inform my Government of what you have written, and in the meantime should any one apply to me I will let him know that the Government of His Majesty has not sanctioned any such agreements as are reported, and that those inhabitants who have concluded them have no authority to do so, and that those who go to Wad Nun do so at their own risk, and may peace and prosperity attend you.

(Signed) A. NICOLSON.

No. 13.

Sir A. Nicolson to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(*Received January* 20.)

(No. 6.)
My Lord, *Tangier, January* 12, 1897.

WITH reference to my despatch No. 139 of the 10th ultimo, I have the honour to transmit copy of a despatch I have received from Mr. Consul Maclean relative to the difficulties which he is encountering in the settlement of the claims of British merchants at Saffi. I also beg leave to inclose translation of a note which has just reached me from the Grand Vizier on the same subject. The statement of the Kaids that they wished to make an arrangement with Mr. Maclean is manifestly inaccurate, but as the Vizier has sent renewed orders to arrange matters, it would be superfluous to discuss that point. It is unfortunate that Mr. Maclean has been obliged to make so prolonged a stay at Saffi, but I trust your Lordship will agree in the view he has expressed in his despatch that, in the circumstances, it was advisable that he should do his utmost to procure a settlement of the British claims. I have informed Mr. Maclean that if the last orders do not produce an immediate effect, he should return without delay to Dar-al-Baida; and in that event, I think the only course to be pursued will be to make the Moorish Government responsible for the losses which British merchants are incurring.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. NICOLSON.

Inclosure 1 in No. 13.

Consul Maclean to Sir A. Nicolson.

(No. 101.)
Sir, *Saffi, December* 31, 1896.

I REGRET to have to report to you that down to the present no progress has been made in the settlement of debts due by natives to British merchants in Saffi.

The Vizier's orders have had no effect whatever.

The Kaids continue their tergiversation and the Oomana are amiably helpless.

The Oomana wrote three times to thirteen Kaids requesting that a certain few of the debtors be sent into town to arrange with their creditors. The three replies from each of the Kaids were evasive. I then requested that the Oomana should report the state of affairs to the Vizier, and I pointed out that it was a serious matter that his Excellency's orders, on the faith of which I had been sent here, should be disregarded.

The Oomana begged me still to be patient and they wrote a fourth time to the Kaids, and in this letter they stated that if the debtors were not sent in without further delay, they would report the Kaid's disobedience to the Sultan.

This fourth letter met with no better success than its predecessors and on the 23rd November the Oomana informed me that they had complained to the Sultan and they asked me to await the reply.

I am still waiting.

From information I have received I gather that all the Kaids are acting in collusion. The Oomana are also of this opinion, and the similarity in all the replies to letters bears out this view.

The most powerful and influential of the Kaids is Aisa-ben-Omar, and it is within my knowledge that he was present at the Shereefian Court and in constant communication with the Vizier when the latter wrote to inform you of the orders he had sent to the Kaids and Oomana.

I therefore reluctantly conclude that these orders were not sincere, otherwise I am convinced the Kaids would not have dared to disobey them and the Vizier would have long ago replied to the Oomana's complaint.

The Kaids inform merchants' collectors and send messages into town that if any debtors were arrested now any others owing money would run away.

This is pure invention and they themselves are seizing whole families in order to extort money and property and in this way the whole district is rapidly being impoverished, and assets which are really the product of Europeans' investments are vanishing.

Business is therefore at a deadlock. Merchants are powerless to make arrangements for the future and cannot collect their outstanding debts. The Goverment, instead of assisting, uses its administrative powers to obstruct business by helping debtors to evade their creditors.

After weeks of patience I had prepared to return to Dar-al-Baida when I received information that on the 16th of this month the Vizier had received a further letter from you. Again, on the 21st I heard that Shereefian orders were being prepared and on the 24th instant the Vizier himself stated to my informant that he was replying to your letter on the following day and that orders, which were only awaiting the Sultan's seal, were to be at once forwarded to the Kaids. The latter, too, had written on the subject to the Vizier, and their couriers are still at Marrakesh awaiting replies.

A Moorish to-morrow is an uncertain date, but my experience has taught me that patient persistence and good-will often overcome even Oriental obstruction. Hence I concluded it was my duty to wait in the hope that shortly I may be in a position to afford the necessary assistance to the British commercial community.

My leaving without having effected something towards the settlement which I came to make, on the faith of the Vizier's assurances to you, would emphasize the impression that the Moorish Government had intentionally sheltered debtors from meeting their obligations and local British business would be in a more helpless position than ever.

On the other hand, if the Moorish authorities are to continue their tergiversation, my remaining here is a useless expense to Her Majesty's Government.

I have great confidence that you will be able to move the Moorish Government to be sincere and that the Kaids will be given to understand that they disregard the representations of British Consular officers at their peril. I informed the Oomana directly I arrived here that if debtors, as applied for, were sent into town, I would take care that merchants were quite reasonable, but that it was necessary that business machinery should be set working again, and that after three years of waiting patiently on the part of the creditors, that the latter and their debtors should be brought face to face. Otherwise no arrangement was possible, and in no civilized country in the world would Government authorities refuse or evade giving the necessary assistance.

In conclusion, I would respectfully impress upon you the very great hardship that British firms are suffering through the inaction of the Moorish authorities. It has been a case of constant postponement for three years. While the country was in a state of revolution the merchants refrained from urging their claims; but all the Governors promised their assistance when the Court came to Marrakesh. Yet, still they place every possible obstacle in the merchants' way and disregard all Consular representation.

I submit they should be made responsible and be taught a lesson in some way.

The merchants are in a state of great despondency, and for this reason alone I am reluctant to leave Saffi without further instructions. My presence here demonstrates to them that their interests are being watched, and it also proves to the Kaids that there is no intention to allow the matter of the settlement of debts due to British merchants to be postponed.

I have, &c.
(Signed) ALLAN MACLEAN.

Inclosure 2 in No. 13.

Cid Hamed-ben-Mousa to Sir A. Nicolson.

(Translation.)
(After compliments.) 14 *Rajab*, 1314 (*December* 20, 1896).

YOUR letter, oh friend, has reached that when your Consul at Dar-al-Baida proceeded to Saffi to attend to the settlement of the debts due to your merchants, in conformity with the Shereefian orders sent to the Governors of the debtors through the Oomana of the said town, the Oomana received him well and with the greatest attention, but that the Governors have not yet carried out the orders, although the object is only to bring the debtors in to pay what they have ready and give them time for what they have not ready. You ask that the Governors be made to carry out the orders, &c. I am aware of it, after bringing it to the knowledge of His Majesty Victorious in Allah, and he has ordered me, God exalt him, to reply to you, oh friend, that the reply of the Oomana of Saffi had already reached His Majesty explaining the facts, but letters have been received from some of the Governors of the debtors that they wished to make an arrangement with your Consul there for those debtors that are under their jurisdiction, and that no delay has occurred on their part in carrying out their orders. Nevertheless, His Majesty has ordered the renewal of the Shereefian orders to the said Governors in a manner that will induce them to pay attention and look after the carrying out of the work in the manner in which the previous orders were issued to them, in a thorough style, with the help of Allah.

May you continue, &c.
Finished.

(Signed) HAMED-BEN-MUSA-BEN-HAMED.

No. 14.

Sir E. Monson to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(Received January 23.)

(No. 30. Africa.)
My Lord, *Paris, January* 22, 1897.

WITH reference to my despatch No. 226 of the 12th ultimo, reporting the rumours current respecting Colonel Didier's expedition in the direction of Tuat, I have the honour to inclose an extract from the "Temps" of the 17th instant, giving an account of punitive expeditions led last month by Captain Godron, in command of the district of Géryville, to avenge the death of Lieutenant Collot.

Starting from Géryville on the 6th December, the force seems to have proceeded southward along the frontier of Morocco some 500 kilom. as far as Oglat Zaïfrani, and captured in that neighbourhood three caravans coming from Gurara.

I have, &c.
(Signed) EDMUND MONSON.

Inclosure in No. 14.

Extract from the "Temps" of January 17, 1897.

LES incidents qui se sont produits dans le Sud Algérien dans le courant du mois de Novembre (assassinat du Lieutenant Collot et razzia de chameaux appartenant aux Laarbas), ne pouvaient laisser l'autorité militaire indifférente. Bien plus, les manœuvres effectuées dans le Sud Oranais, au sud-ouest de Djenien-bou-Resg, avaient été loin de rehausser notre prestige. Les dissidents groupés autour de Bou Amama affectaient de dire que la colonne de manœuvre était une colonne

expéditionnaire et que, si les Français s'étaient arrêtés en vue de Figuig, c'est qu'ils avaient eu peur d'essuyer un échec. Les coups de fusils tirés en fantasia par les gens de Figuig sur les derniers échelons de la colonne de manœuvre caractérisaient suffisamment, aux yeux des indigènes, la situation morale qui nous était faite.

On apprendra avec la plus vive satisfaction les résultats de la petite campagne effectuée dans le Sud Oranais par le Chef de Bataillon Godron, Commandant du cercle de Géryville, contre les Châamba dissidents auxquels étaient imputés la mort du Lieutenant Collot et l'enlèvement des chameaux des Laarbas.

La petite colonne quitta Géryville dans la soirée du 6 Décembre; le 9, elle arrivait à Hassi-Klanfoussi, situé à 45 kilom. au sud de Benoud.

Le 11, la colonne était à El Azaïdy, sur l'oued Namous.

Le 13 Décembre, entre ce point et Hassi-Mezou, elle atteignit un parti du rezzou à la poursuite duquel elle était et qui se défendit avec acharnement. Les Châamba eurent un mort et un blessé. Le Commandant Godron réussit à capturer 103 chameaux et fit onze prisonniers dont le blessé. De notre côté, uu spahi fut frappé d'une balle au bas-ventre.

Les prisonniers firent connaître que le reste du rezzou avait pris la direction d'Hassi-Mezou, en plusieurs groupes, après le partage du butin, qui avait eu lieu la veille.

La colonne continuant sa poursuite arriva le lendemain, 14 Décembre, à Hassi-Mezou sans faire aucune rencontre.

Le jour suivant se dirigeant sur Noukhila, petite oasis et ksar en ruines, situé à 16 kilom. de Hassi-Mezou, la colonne découvrit les traces d'un deuxième groupe de chameaux poussé par les gens du rezzou.

Après quatre heures de marche forcée, la colonne atteignit le groupe au pied du Djebel Mezarig, sur la rive gauche de l'Oued-Zousfana.

Les Châamba défendirent chaudement leur part de prise, soit cinquante-quatre chameaux, mais ils durent tout abandonner et ils purent se sauver grâce à l'impossibilité où l'on se trouvait de la poursuivre au milieu des rochers de la montagne.

La colonne alla de Noukhila nuitamment sur El Hafaïr puis à Oglat-Zaïfani, où elle arriva le 16 Décembre. Elle avait ainsi franchi plus de 500 kilom. en dix jours. Oglat-Zaïfrani est situé à 10 kilom. de l'Oued-Zousfana, à l'entrée nord du Béni-Goumi.

La colonne, entre El Hafaïr et Zaïfrani, captura 400 chameaux, parmi lesquels étaient 12 chameaux du rezzou qu'elle poursuivait et plusieurs autres qui portaient la marque de l'État et avaient été pris, il y a quelques mois, à Fort MacMahon.

Ces 400 chameaux appartenaient à des dissidents actuellement campés avec Bou Amama.

Le Commandant Godron apprit que d'autres dissidents, prévenus de l'arrivée de la colonne, s'étaient jetés dans le Grand-Erg, vers Hassi-Meghimin et Hassi-Ouskir.

Il dirigea alors de ce côté ses opérations.

Le Commandant réussit à surprendre successivement trois caravanes venant du Gourara plus un douar de sept tentes.

Hommes, animaux de transports, dattes, armes, tout fut enlevé.

Le châtiment était complet.

La colonne étant exténuée de fatigue, le Commandant Godron, avec elle, rentra à Géryville.

M. Étienne, Député d'Oran, a fait, au sujet de cet exploit, la déclaration suivante à l'Agence Nationale:—

"Cette course brillante fait le plus grand honneur au Commandant Godron et prouve surabondamment que la marche sur le Gourara, toujours annoncée mais toujours ajournée, peut s'effectuer sans qu'il soit nécessaire de mobiliser de nombreux effectifs. Il est cependant temps d'agir, si nous ne voulons pas nous trouver bientôt en présence de difficultés qui nous obligeront alors à des sacrifices considérables en hommes et en argent."

No. 15.

The Marquess of Salisbury to Sir A. Nicolson.

(No. 7.)

Sir, *Foreign Office, January* 23, 1897.

I HAVE received your despatch No. 2 of the 7th instant, reporting communications which have recently passed between the Diplomatic Body at Tangier and Cid Abdelkrim Brisha, with regard to the revision of the system under which Mosque property in Morocco is at present held by Europeans and natives.

The action taken by you in this matter is approved by Her Majesty's Government.

I am, &c.

(Signed) SALISBURY.

No. 16.

Sir E. Thornton to Foreign Office.—(Received January 26.)

My dear Sanderson, 90, *Eaton Square, London, January* 26, 1897.

WITH reference to our conversation of yesterday, I have impressed upon my colleagues the necessity of not allowing the Agent, whom we may send out to Morocco, to proceed to the Süss country without first obtaining the permission of the Sultan or the Government at Tangier to do so, and you may depend upon it that I will do my best that this course shall be followed.

The Agent, Major Pilsbury, will probably be starting for Tangier in about a week's time, and will present himself to Sir Arthur Nicolson. Would you mind writing a line to Sir Arthur, asking him to give the Major such assistance as he properly can?

Believe me, &c.

(Signed) EDWARD THORNTON.

No. 17.

The Marquess of Salisbury to Sir A. Nicolson.

(No. 9.)

Sir, *Foreign Office, January* 27, 1897.

I HAVE received your despatch No. 6 of the 12th instant, and, under the circumstances therein explained, I approve of Mr. Consul Maclean having remained at Saffi on business connected with the British claims against the inhabitants of that place.

I have, &c.

(Signed) SALISBURY.

No. 18.

Sir A. Nicolson to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(Received January 29.)

(No. 7.)

My Lord, *Tangier, January* 19, 1897.

WITH reference to my despatch No. 6 of the 12th instant, I have the honour to transmit copy of a despatch which I have received from Mr. Consul Maclean, stating that the Governors of the districts near Saffi have acknowledged the receipt of further Shereefian letters on the subject of the debts due to British merchants.

I trust these orders will have the desired effect, as I am given to understand from private information from the Court that they were couched in peremptory terms.

I have, &c.

(Signed) A. NICOLSON

Inclosure in No. 18.

Consul Maclean to Sir A. Nicolson.

Sir, *Dar-al-Baida, January* 13, 1897.

AN unexpected steamer gives me the opportunity to inform your Excellency, with reference to my despatch of the 8th instant, that the Kaids have acknowledged to the Oomana the receipt of Shereefian letters on the subject of the debts due to British merchants in Saffi, and they asked to be furnished with the names of these debtors whose presence in town is required, and on receipt of these names they promise to send the debtors in. The value of this promise may be gauged by the fact of their having been repeatedly furnished with the list of the names they ask for.

However, I have requested the Oomana to again forward to the Kaids these names of debtors which have been previously applied for. From a Shereef, who was at one of the Kaids' houses when the latest Shereefian letter containing orders about these debts was received, I learn the Sultan says he has received representations from your Excellency that no further progress has been made towards their settlement, that the Kaids were to assist to get them paid without further delay.

There is no allusion to previous inattention to orders, no kind of blame or rebuke for disobedience. The Kaids' tergiversation has won them so many more months of delay, without any inconvenience to their selves, at the expense of the British merchants.

In the meantime, the natives have been steadily pressed for moneys for Government purposes.

The Kaids' acknowlegments of the receipt of the Shereefian orders were only received yesterday, and already the lists asked for have been sent to them.

I have, &c.
(Signed) ALLAN MACLEAN.

No. 19.

Sir A. Nicolson to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(*Received January* 29.)

(No. 8.)
My Lord, *Tangier, January* 19, 1897.

FROM private information which I have received from the Court, it would appear that the Moorish Government are preparing a strong expedition for operations in the province of Chaouia, which lies in the neighbourhood of Dar-al-Baida. There has been considerable intertribal fighting in this district, but recently affairs seem to have quieted down, and there does not appear to be any urgent call for military measures in those parts. The results will be, I fear, further disturbances and renewed exactions from the unfortunate people, which will hamper commercial affairs and reduce the purchasing and paying capacity of the population. Moreover, Chaouia has a considerable porportion of foreign-protected subjects, and probably many complaints will arrive of injuries caused to the properties of these individuals. It is much to be regretted that the Government will not allow the country some period of repose, and afford it some opportunity of recovering from the events of the last three years.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. NICOLSON.

No. 20.

Sir A. Nicolson to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(*Received January* 29.)

(No. 9.)
My Lord, *Tangier, January* 19, 1897.

I RECEIVED from a private correspondent in England the prospectus of the Globe Venture Syndicate announcing that 70,000 shares for the "Direct Trading Monopoly" in Sus are now issued at par; that a Treaty has been concluded with the Council of the "independent tribes" of Sus conceding a trading monopoly, and that this Treaty further gives the right of establishing trading stations on the Atlantic Coast, on the navigable rivers, and in the interior. It is also stated that "an expedition is being fitted out with

the object of thoroughly exploring the country, and for the purpose of ascertaining its mining capabilities." My informant adds that he hears that, "apart from regular trade, a large proportion of the Syndicate's operations would consist in supplying large quantities of rifles and machine guns into the Sus district."

Apart from the Syndicate desiring to undertake a project which has not received the sanction, and is in direct opposition to the wish, of the Sovereign of the country in which they contemplate operations, I would beg leave to remark that the Company will incur a very serious responsibility if it sends an exploring expedition into the Sus district. The Moorish Government have at present a considerable military force in the Sus, for the purpose of securing the submission of the tribes, and from information which I have lately received it would appear that the operations have been fairly successful. It is not necessary for me to point out to your Lordship the impression which would be produced on the Moorish Government if the importation of arms and ammunition were promoted by a British Company, and it is to be hoped that no attempt will be made by the Syndicate to dispatch prospectors into the dominions of the Sultan against the wish of His Majesty. I may add that the illicit trade in arms and ammunition is a grave offence under the Morocco Order in Council, and I foresee serious complications if the Syndicate endeavours to prosecute its operations in what has been officially recognized as the territory of the Sultan.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. NICOLSON.

No. 21.

Sir A. Nicolson to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(*Received February* 1.)

(No. 11.)
My Lord, *Tangier, January* 21, 1897.

WITH reference to my despatch No. 146 of the 31st ultimo, I have the honour to report that Cid Mohammed Torres replied to the collective note of the Diplomatic Body regarding the police force at Tangier, by stating that such a force already existed as clearly "as the sun shone on the earth," and that if we thought it ill-organized that he could not see that any object would be gained by numerically increasing what we considered an inefficient body.

There is some truth in this latter statement of Cid Mohammed Torres, and at a recent meeting of the Diplomatic Body I suggested that we should propose to the Moorish Government that a European, selected from one of the minor States, should be intrusted with the reorganization of the force. This European would be in the service of the Sultan, and would be paid by His Majesty. This proposal did not meet with general acceptance, and it was resolved that some further inquiries should be made of Cid Mohammed Torres as to the number of the police in Tangier, the amount of the funds set apart for its payment, and some further details.

The main points seem to me that we should insure regular and proper payments to the men, who should only be employed in police work and none other, and that some efficient supervision, which, to be efficient, can only be exercised by a European, should be established over the proper discharge of their police duties.

The majority of my colleagues do not appear to welcome warmly a European control, although I made it clear that the officer selected should be taken from a nation having no political interests in Morocco.

The French and Belgian Ministers have been intrusted with the mission of discussing with Cid Mohammed Torres the question, and are to report the results of their negotiations to the Diplomatic Body.

The United States' Consul-General wished the Diplomatic Body to draw up a scheme for the police, whose chief officers should be Europeans, and that if this scheme received the approval of the several Governments, that its acceptance should be enforced on the Moorish Government. This proposal seemed to us all a little too arbitrary, though we told Mr. Burke we should be glad to study any scheme he might submit.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. NICOLSON.

No. 22.

Sir A. Nicolson to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(*Received February* 1.)

(No. 12.)
My Lord, *Tangier, January* 21, 1897.

WITH reference to my despatch No. 2 of the 7th instant, I find on further search in the archives that although the proposal made in 1889 by the Moorish Government to raise the rents of the Habous property was accepted, it was only granted by the foreign Representatives for Tangier alone, and that when at the end of 1891 the Moorish authorities complained that some British subjects and protégés at the coast towns declined to pay the increased rents, the matter was referred to Her Majesty's Government by Sir C. Euan-Smith in his despatch No. 16 of the 25th January, 1892.

Her Majesty's Government approved the reply which Sir C. Euan-Smith proposed to send to the representations of the Moorish authorities, and which expressed the inability of the Legation to compel British subjects to pay the higher rents, for reasons which are set forth at length in the above-mentioned despatch.

I have brought to the notice of my colleagues the considerations which render the application to the coast towns of any arrangement which may be made for Tangier undesirable in the circumstances, and they quite agree that great caution must be exercised in dealing with this latter question.

At present the whole subject is in the initial stage of discussion, and my colleagues consider that we should endeavour to obtain from the Moorish Government a better observance of the Article of the Convention of Madrid in regard to the acquisition of real property by foreigners, which at present, with the exception of Tangier, is practically a dead letter in the coast towns and elsewhere.

Before any decision is arrived at in regard to Mosque and Government property in Tangier, which will be first dealt with in discussion with the Moorish authorities, I would submit, for the approval of your Lordship, the points on which an agreement has been reached. It is probable that the examination which is to be made of the Commission of Experts will last a considerable time, and I do not anticipate that their Report will be ready for some months to come.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. NICOLSON.

No. 23.

Sir H. Drummond Wolff to the Marquess of Salisbury.— (*Received February* 2.)

(No. 18.)
(Telegraphic.) P. *Madrid, February* 2, 1897.

ACCORDING to a telegram from Tangier, published in the "Liberal," the Sultan of Morocco has protested to the British Legation against the establishment of a factory at Wad-Nun. It further states that this protest does in reality exist, although the whole circumstance is ignored by the British Legation.

(Repeated to Tangier.)

No. 24.

Eastern Telegraph Company to Foreign Office.—(*Received February* 4.)

(Confidential.) *Winchester House, Old Broad Street, London, February* 3, 1897.
Sir,

WITH reference to the letter from the Foreign Office dated the 24th August last, on the subject of a Concession for the laying of cables along the coast of Morocco to Mogador, we have received this evening a telegram from our agent at Gibraltar, copy of which I beg to inclose for your further information in regard to this question.

I am, &c.
(Signed) J. DENISON PENDER,
Managing Director.

Inclosure in No. 24.

Mr. Spratt to the Eastern Telegraph Company.

(Telegraphic.) *Gibraltar, February* 3, 1897, 2·34 P.M.

RUMOURS French cable Morocco coast revived persistently last few days. British Minister Tangier made inquiries, and has received denial from French Minister; also strong negative from Moorish Foreign Minister. French Minister stated that there has always existed a project for cable to Oran, but nothing being done now. Sir Arthur Nicolson adds, however, that fact French Post-office premises being extended is rather significant, and he will write Moorish Court reminding them of promise that no Concession would be granted for coast cables, and that the English consider themselves possess preferential rights if any intention allowing extension telegraph in Morocco. Have written.

No. 25.

The Marquess of Salisbury to Sir A. Nicolson.

(No. 12.)
Sir, *Foreign Office, February* 6, 1897.

I HAVE received your despatch No. 3 of the 8th instant, drawing attention to the difficulties which have arisen at Her Majesty's Legation and Consulate at Tangier with reference to matters involving considerations of law, and suggesting the appointment, as Legal Adviser to the Legation, with a fee of 25*l.* a-year, of the Attorney-General of Gibraltar. I have recommended your proposal to the favourable consideration of the Board of Treasury.

I do not, however, fully understand that portion of your despatch which seems to imply that the Consul has no power under the Morocco Order in Council to hold a formal preliminary inquiry in a case where it is proposed that the prisoner, if a *primâ facie* case should be made out against him, should be committed to take his trial before the Chief Justice of Gibraltar, not at Gibraltar, but at Tangier.

While I must not be understood as expressing a matured opinion on this point, it certainly appears to me on a cursory examination of the Order that it is equally as competent for the Consul to hold a preliminary inquiry in the latter instance as in the former.

I am, &c.
(Signed) SALISBURY.

No. 26.

Foreign Office to Treasury.

Sir, *Foreign Office, February* 6, 1897.

I AM directed by the Marquess of Salisbury to transmit to you a copy of a despatch from Her Majesty's Minister at Tangier calling attention to difficulties which have arisen in the treatment of grave criminal cases by Her Majesty's Consular Court for Morocco.*

Sir A. Nicolson states that it is important that such cases should be tried by the Chief Justice of Gibraltar at Tangier (and not at Gibraltar), so as to secure the attendance of witnesses and to save time and expense; and that it is accordingly necessary for the Consul, who is not a skilled and practised lawyer, to decide, without an opportunity of hearing both sides, whether there is a *primâ facie* case to go to trial, and whether the circumstances warrant a request being addressed to the Chief Justice to hold a Court at Tangier. Sir A. Nicolson represents that the difficulties would be best met by allowing the Consul to seek advice from the Attorney-General of Gibraltar on matters of this and other kinds. He further states that he himself requires legal advice on various subjects, and that he has hitherto had recourse to the courtesy of the Chief Justice, on which, however, he naturally feels some delicacy in trespassing to any great extent.

* No. 10.

Under these circumstances, Sir A. Nicolson suggests that the Attorney-General should be retained as Legal Adviser both to the Legation and to the Consulate.

In countries where the Queen has extra-territorial jurisdiction, many complicated questions arise on which Her Majesty's Representatives require expert advice; and in most of them there is a resident Consular Judge with a salary paid out of Votes administered by this Department, who must, under the conditions of his appointment, possess special legal qualifications, and to whom Her Majesty's Representative can turn for advice in case of need.

Her Majesty's Minister in Morocco is not in so satisfactory a position in this respect, and Lord Salisbury considers it very desirable in the interests of the public service that Sir A. Nicolson's proposal should be adopted. The amount of the fee mentioned by Sir A. Nicolson seems extremely reasonable, if the principle of the arrangement be sanctioned.

Under these circumstances, I am to request that the Lords Commissioners of the Treasury will be good enough to take the matter into their favourable consideration, and to give their authority, subject to the consent of the Secretary of State for the Colonies and to the acceptance of the proposed arrangement by the Attorney-General of Gibraltar, for retaining the services of the gentleman for the time being holding the latter office, as Legal Adviser to Her Majesty's Legation and Consulate at Tangier, for an annual fee of 25 guineas.

I am, &c.
(Signed) T. H. SANDERSON.

No. 27.

Sir A. Nicolson to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(*Received February* 8.)

(No. 13.)
My Lord, *Tangier, January* 29, 1897.

THERE has of late been some trouble among the tribes in Tafilet, in regard to which news has been somewhat conflicting; but from information which I have recently received from the Court, it would seem that the disturbances have been serious. So far as I can gather, the Government sent an expedition to Tafilet to support the Viceroy in his task of suppressing the disturbances, but it has now returned to Morocco city without apparently having met with any success. The Viceroy is Mulai-el-Rashid, a brother of the late Sultan Mulai Hassan. One of the officers of the expedition told my informant that it was found that the tribes in revolt against the Viceroy had obtained the upper hand, and that the expedition had been unable to render him any effective assistance. Other reports state that the expedition never succeeded in entering Tafilet, but meeting with opposition on the way thither, thought it more prudent to return. A Shereef who has great influence among the tribes has induced them to make a truce of two months, and to send Delegates to Court to endeavour to arrive at a satisfactory arrangement. These Delegates have reached Morocco city, but it is considered doubtful whether the Government will be able to persuade them to come to terms, as the two opposing sides appear to be animated with very hostile feelings towards each other. If no understanding is reached before the expiration of the two months' truce, it is feared that the disturbances will break out again with renewed violence, and with serious consequences to the authority of the Government, as the tribes supporting the Viceroy are weaker than their opponents.

It is also reported to me from the Court that many of the Tafilet people are threatening to call in assistance from the French, and this report has caused the Moorish Government to suspect that the movement has been encouraged by the tribes residing in Algerian territory. I am inclined to doubt whether this is the case, as the dispute among the tribes arose, I am told, in regard to some water rights, and this small question has fanned the animosity which is always ready to break out among the Tafilet tribes.

The Viceroy, Mulai-el-Rashid, has been called to Court, but has declined to obey the invitation; and there are some who consider that he is playing a double game. He is a man of considerable wealth, and could, it is said, establish a strong position in Tafilet if he so chose. It is thought possible that he has encouraged the tribal disturbances in order to weaken the contending parties, and subsequently to intervene

himself with effect. The reports I have received from Court do not, however, bear out this supposition.

I have been promised full information as to the further developments of this question.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. NICOLSON.

No. 28.

Sir A. Nicolson to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(*Received February* 8.)

(No. 14.)
My Lord, *Tangier, January* 29, 1897.

WITH reference to my despatch No. 1 of the 4th instant, I have received private information from the Court to the effect that there appears to be an intention on the part of some of the relations of the Shereeff of Tamsloht, assisted by the Kaïd of the place, to procure the consent of the Grand Vizier to the dismissal of Hadji-el-Meslohi from the post of Shereef and its transference to another member of the family. Much of the property of El Meslohi belongs to him in his capacity of Shereef, and the loss of that position would carry with it a serious diminution of his wealth. I fear that the temptation to the Vizier to fall in with these projects will be great, as doubtless he would also benefit by them, and I should not be doing his Excellency an injustice in saying that he is not indifferent to pecuniary profits.

After my interview with the Moorish officials, which I reported in my above-mentioned despatch, I requested Kaïd Maclean to speak privately in my name to the Grand Vizier in the sense I had spoken to the above functionaries. I trust his communication may have some effect, but should it not be successful, I am writing to Kaïd Maclean to request him to warn the Vizier seriously that any interference with the affairs of El Meslohi without previous consultation with, and consent of, this Legation will bring him into difficulties, and may raise embarrassments which it would be wiser for him to avoid.

Apart from the injustice of ill-treating a man whose only wish is to be left alone, and against wnom there is no charge, I do not think it would be advisable to allow British protection to be treated lightly, and of little account. I have told the Vizier on more than one occasion that there is no desire on our part to raise the question of the protection of El Meslohi in any way which may be embarrassing to the Moorish Government, and that it would be wiser for him also to leave it alone. At the same time we cannot view with indifference the unjust persecution of one who is under our protection.

I hope and believe that the warning which Kaïd Maclean will, if it be necessary, convey to the Grand Vizier, in friendly, but plain terms, will cause his Excellency to stop the intrigues which are being set on foot against the Shereef. I have hitherto been very conciliatory on the subject, and have done all in my power to establish good relations between the Vizier and the Shereef; but it seems to me that this friendly attitude has been misunderstood, and has encouraged the adversaries of the Shereef to become more determined and active in their efforts to undermine his position.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. NICOLSON.

No. 29.

Sir A. Nicolson to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(*Received February* 8.)

(No. 15.)
My Lord, *Tangier, January* 30, 1897.

WITH reference to my despatch No. 7 of the 19th instant, I have the honour to transmit copy of a further despatch which I have received from Mr. Consul Maclean relative to the claims of British merchants at Saffi.

As Mr. Maclean is of opinion that the last orders from the Court are likely to have some effect, I propose to instruct him to remain a short and limited time longer at Saffi,

as it is possible that his departure at this moment might induce the Kaïds to relapse into their former indifference. I do not, at the same time, think that any further representations on my part to the Shereefian Government are necessary or advisable for the moment.

If the Kaïds had still proved absolutely recalcitrant, such a representation might have been called for; but as the situation seems to be improving, I do not wish unnecessarily to exert further pressure on the Shereefian Government.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. NICOLSON.

Inclosure in No. 29.

Consul Maclean to Sir A. Nicolson.

(No. 9.)
Sir, *Saffi, January* 22, 1897.

I HAVE the honour to acknowledge the receipt of your despatch No. 5 of the 12th instant, containing instructions for me to return to Dar-al-Baida at once should the Sultan's last orders to the Kaïds have no effect.

Although the Kaïds' obedience to the Shereefian orders is but half-hearted, yet they have had some effect. None of the debtors have been sent into the town, but the Kaïds have promised to send them; the Oomana think they will arrive, and confidential informants residing in some of the Kabylas send me word that Makasnees have been sent to arrest them.

The Kaïds have a reasonable excuse for a little delay as heavy rains have rendered travelling in the country almost impossible. At my suggestion the merchants' native debt collectors are out in provinces endeavouring to recover from those debtors whom I have not applied for. These collectors report that they are meeting with some success, and that the Kaïds are giving assistance. At a rough calculation, I should say that about 8 per cent. of the debts originally presented to me have been recovered.

Five debtors have voluntarily presented themselves before their creditors, and, inspired by me, the latter allowed them the easiest possible conditions for payment, and no restraint was placed on their liberty. Five seems a very small proportion of over 3,000; but I am given to understand that they are the very first who have presented themselves during the last two years, and I am in hopes that their experience of very lenient treatment will encourage others to come forward.

It seems to me more important, and I have impressed my views on merchants that business should be coaxed on to its normal lines rather than that natives should be imprisoned wholesale and forced to sell their land, stock, and all they possess, to pay what would, after all, be only a small proportion of their indebtedness. They would be ruined entirely, and could not become customers again. I submit that it is the better policy to use just sufficient pressure to bring home to debtors that they cannot escape their obligations, and that there is the ability to make them pay their debts when they possess the wherewithal to do so. It is necessary to remember that the district has scarcely yet escaped from the throes of two years' rebellion and anarchy, during which no property was sacred, and many natives were ruined. Time and patience I believe to be the specific for the situation, providing the Government authorities will only show a reasonable regard for Consular representations. Therein lies the greatest difficulty, always being pressed for money by the Government, the Kaïds press the people and begrudge their paying money for debts due to merchants.

If the Kaïds fail in their duty towards Europeans, it is equitable that they should be made responsible; but unfortunately the only way to enforce their responsibility is to fix it on the Government.

To make the latter responsible for the debts due to Europeans would mean every debtor being cruelly treated. Many would be thrown chained into dungeons or holes in the ground, and their families would be left to starve. This would ruin future prospects of business, and all the sufferings of the people would be ascribed to the Shylock greed of Europeans. The Government would encourage this belief.

Taking all these circumstances into consideration, I would respectfully submit that, as the Sultan's last orders have a slight appearance of being sincere, I should be allowed to remain here still a little longer. With my finger on the pulse of the district I can judge that the Kaïds are beginning to feel the consequences of their disobedience, and that the debtors themselves commence to feel less secure in their immunity from arrest on account of debts due to British merchants.

I would even venture most respectfully to pray you to make one more strong representation to the Shereefian Government, and I feel more than hopeful the result would mean such action being taken that would remove all the hesitation of the Kaïds by making them afraid.

I have, &c.
(Signed) ALLAN MACLEAN.

No. 30.

Foreign Office to Eastern Telegraph Company.

(Confidential.)
Sir, *Foreign Office, February* 8, 1897.

I AM directed by the Marquess of Salisbury to acknowledge with thanks the receipt of your letter of the 3rd instant, marked Confidential, respecting the rumour of the grant of a Concession for laying telegraph cables along the coast of Morocco to Mogador.

I am, &c.
(Signed) T. H. SANDERSON.

No. 31.

Sir H. Drummond Wolff to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(*Received February* 10.)

(No. 39.)
My Lord, *Madrid, February* 7, 1897.

WITH reference to my telegram No. 18 of the 2nd instant I venture to call your Lordship's attention to a letter in the "Liberal" of to-day from Señor A. Regedor, its London correspondent, relative to the prospectus of "The Globe Venture Syndicate (Limited)."

After analyzing the constitution of the Board of Directors, the writer points out that the principal Concession obtained is the monopoly of direct businesses with the tribes of the "Sûs," and that a Treaty has been deposited in the Bank of England concluded with the Council of all the independent Chiefs of those tribes by the special recommendation of the Shereef of Wasan who is described as "The recognized head of the Western Mahommedan world."

"This same Shereef," the article continues, "is the one who is called at one time independent and at others a French subject or as under French protection, who has often menaced us (Spain) in our African possessions and whom no doubt it is intended to elevate with this "Council" to be a rival to the Sultan of Morocco."

The rest of the article appears of so much importance that I think it best to send a translation in extenso. It protests against the legality of the monopoly, expressing the hope that the Duke of Tetuan will know how to prevent it. It concludes by quoting the language recently employed in a speech delivered by Señor Moret to the effect that, "The next war will be fought in the neighbourhood of the Straits of Gibraltar and the triumph will be that of him who possesses its coast and immediate surroundings.

I have, &c.
(Signed) H. DRUMMOND WOLFF.

Inclosure in No. 31.

Extract from the "Liberal" of February 7, 1897.

(Translation.)

THE Council, whose Constitution is now revealed, is composed of the so-called Chiefs, who claim to have no dependence on the Sultan of Morocco: and among their number figure several of those who authorized the formation of the Cape Juby factory, and who captured the crews of several of our vessels (among them the crew of the "Icod"), vessels destined for purposes of trade between that seaboard, our Colony of Rio de Oro and the Canary Islands.

The Cape Juby Company, on its dissolution, yielded all its privileges, on the intervention of the English Government, and after satisfying the demands of Spain,

to the Sultan of Morocco, till now the Supreme Head of the Faithful of the West, who paid for them the high sum of 50,000*l*. The intervention of this Shereef of Wasan in the creation of this Council and of this English monopoly, is a matter that should be of special importance to France, as well as to Spain and to other countries who have interests in that quarter, such as Germany, Italy, and the United States of America.

Further the prospectus states that the monopoly in question (excluding all but British subjects) comprises an area of 150,000 square miles, or three times as large as England, situated between the mountains of Atlas and the river Nun, while the Syndicate has permission to establish commercial stations on the Atlantic coast, which, it is clear, could easily be turned into fortified centres or towns for purposes of defence in that quarter, close to the former situation of the Cape Juby trading station, as well as in other positions of strategic importance which might serve the commercial, and hence the political interests of the new occupants. This permission to found stations is extended to the rivers and to the interior, and will be a source of benefit to the shareholders and to British interests.

The population of the area that is to be monopolized amounts to 5 millions, and its products are cochineals, ivory, gold dust, gold-bearing sands, ostrich feathers, carpets, mica, amber, wool, wood, skins, oil, wax, &c.

It follows that this new Syndicate will possess stations opposite our Canary Islands, and it would be useful to ascertain if the promoters of this enterprise count now also on the active support of Spain, as Mr. Donald Mackenzie once showed us to be the case.

Let us bear in mind that General Azcarraga was among those who worked the hardest to resist the action of the Cape Juby Company in Lanzarote and Fuerteventura.

It is unnecessary to write at length respecting the legality of this monopoly, contrary to the law of nations. It is sufficient to mention the matter.

The prospectus says that an expedition is in preparation to explore the "monopolized country." Let us trust that the Duke of Tetuan will know how to prevent it.

As regards the consequences of this foreign monopoly, which its inventors themselves call a "venture" (*aventura*), it is sufficient to bear on mind the speech delivered a few days ago by Señor Moret in the Ateneo, as was reported in the press: "The seat of the next war will be in the neighbourhood of the Straits of Gibraltar, and the victor will be he who is in possession of its coast line and neighbourhood."

No. 32.

The Marquess of Salisbury to Sir A. Nicolson.

(No. 13.)
Sir, *Foreign Office, February* 10, 1897.

I HAVE received your despatch No. 14 of the 29th ultimo relating to the rumoured dismissal of El Meslohi from the office of Shereef of Tamsloht, and I approve the communication which you are requesting Kaïd Maclean to make to the Grand Vizier, warning him of the difficulties he is likely to be involved in if he interferes with El Meslohi without the consent of Her Majesty's Legation.

I am, &c.
(Signed) SALISBURY.

No. 33.

The Marquess of Salisbury to Sir A. Nicolson.

(No. 14.)
Sir, *Foreign Office, February* 10, 1897.

I HAVE received your despatch No. 15 of the 30th ultimo, forwarding a further report from Mr. Consul Maclean relative to the claims of British merchants at Saffi.

I concur in your view that further representations to the Shereefian Government on this subject are unnecessary at the present moment.

I am, &c.
(Signed) SALISBURY.

No. 34.

The Marquess of Salisbury to Sir H. D. Wolff.

(No. 3.)
(Telegraphic.) P. *Foreign Office, February* 11, 1897, 1·15 P.M.

GLOBE Venture Syndicate.

Your Excellency's telegram No. 22 of the 10th instant.

As far as we are informed, the intention of the Syndicate is merely to open trade relations of a legitimate character with the Sus district tribes. At present the Moorish Government are offering objection to their so doing. An agent is being sent to Tangier by the Syndicate, who have promised to take no action without the permission of Her Majesty's Minister and the Moorish Government.

I sent you by yesterday's messenger the correspondence which has passed on the subject.

No. 35.

Sir A. Nicolson to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(*Received February* 13.)

(No. 2.)
(Telegraphic.) P. *Tangier, February* 13, 1897.

MOORISH Embassy.

Would your Lordship desire that I should revive the question of a Moorish Embassy to England, as I hear that one will be sent to Paris during the year; or should the matter be left alone?

No. 36.

The Marquess of Salisbury to Sir A. Nicolson.

(No. 1.)
(Telegraphic.) P. *Foreign Office, February* 15, 1897, 4 P.M.

MOORISH Mission to France.

Your telegram No. 2 of the 13th instant.

We may, I think, wait until the proposal of sending a Mission to England is recurred to by the Moorish Government themselves.

No. 37.

Sir A. Nicolson to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(*Received February* 16.)

(No. 3.)
(Telegraphic.) P. *Tangier, February* 16, 1897.

MOORISH Embassy to Paris.

My telegram No. 2, 13th February.

I hear from the French Minister that it will probably start from here about the end of the month of April.

No. 38.

Sir H. Drummond Wolff to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(*Received February* 17.)

(No. 44. Secret.)
My Lord, *Madrid, February* 15, 1897.

I WAS glad to receive your Lordship's telegram No. 3. Two stories had been invented to prejudice Her Majesty's Government; one, that their action was contrary

to the spirit of the Mediterranean Agreement, now lapsed, by taking advantage of the Cuban difficulties to steal a march on Spain in Morocco; the other, that the action of the Syndicate had been encouraged, so that British subjects should obtain either a footing in Morocco irrespective of the Sultan's wishes, or compensation as in case of Cape Juby.

The explanations based on the contents of your Lordship's telegram have, I think, done good.

I have, &c.
(Signed) H. DRUMMOND WOLFF.

No. 39.

Sir A. Nicolson to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(Received February 25.)

(No. 16.)
My Lord, *Tangier, February 2, 1897.*

WITH reference to my despatch No. 4 of the 8th ultimo I have the honour to report that from information which I have received from the Court it would appear that the news conveyed by Mr. Gentile to the Italian Minister is quite correct, and that a letter was sent from the Sultan of Morocco to the Sultan of Turkey requesting that the Moorish Agent at Cairo should be officially recognized as his Representative in Egypt. The Vizier stated to my informant that the despatch of this letter had been suggested by the Moorish Agent himself.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. NICOLSON.

No. 40.

Sir A. Nicolson to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(Received February 25.)

(No. 17.)
My Lord, *Tangier, February 2, 1897.*

A REPORT appeared some time ago in the "Figaro" that a French party under a Lieutenant Fournier had arrived at Insaleh, in the district of Tuat, and had remained there a few days to rest their camels. This party was, it was stated, the advance guard of a column dispatched in search of the murderers of the Collot Mission.

Both the Grand Vizier and the French Agent at Court informed Kaïd Maclean that this report was accurate; and Dr. Linares added that the French officer was warmly received by the tribes, who expressed the hope that he would return for a prolonged stay, and with a force sufficient to keep trade routes open and secure.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. NICOLSON.

No. 41.

Sir A. Nicolson to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(Received February 25.)

(No. 18.)
My Lord, *Tangier, February 2, 1897.*

A SAINTLY personage, named Shereef Ahmed Shenguit, recently visited the Shereefian Court from the Sûs district, and was received with exceptional honour and ceremony. He stayed some two weeks at Court and left quite lately to return to his country, having been treated with great distinction during his visit, and having received many valuable presents. This personage, who enjoys a great influence with all the Sûs tribes has, it is said, rendered important services to the expedition which the Moorish Government sent to those parts, and the Grand Vizier has, I am told, succeeded in securing his future co-operation and goodwill. Shereef Shenguit visited the late Sultan when he first ascended the throne, and it is thought that his coming to Merakesh to pay his respects to the present Sovereign will cause a deep impression among the tribes,

and materially assist towards the establishment of His Majesty's authority in the Sûs district.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. NICOLSON.

No. 42.

Sir A. Nicolson to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(Received February 25.)

(No. 20.)
My Lord, *Tangier, February 11, 1897.*

THE German Minister told me yesterday that hitherto no clue had yet been obtained of the actual murderers of the late Mr. Haessner, but that there was a fair amount of evidence against the four Spanish subjects at present in custody as having been accomplices in the act. He thought that eventually they would be sent to Cadiz for trial. Baron Schenk added that he proposed to keep in Tangier for some time yet the detectives whose services the Spanish Government had placed at his disposal. At the same time he had addressed a strong note to the Grand Vizier, holding the Moorish Government responsible for the murder, as he considered that it was their duty to provide for the security of the lives and properties of European residents here.

Baron Schenk did not state in what manner he intended to attach this responsibility on the Moorish Government, or what form his representations would ultimately assume. The Moorish authorities, on the other hand, assert, I believe, that their action is greatly restricted on account of all foreigners being outside their jurisdiction, and by the hesitation which Moorish guards and police feel in dealing with Europeans, even if suspected of being concerned in nefarious acts.

The question of a proper police force for Tangier is being discussed by the Belgian and French Ministers with the Deputy of the Sultan, and a report will be made to the Diplomatic Body on the results of their negotiations.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. NICOLSON.

No. 43.

Sir A. Nicolson to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(Received February 25.)

(No. 21.)
My Lord, *Tangier, February 15, 1897.*

I AM informed that hostilities have again broken out among the tribes in Tafilet, and that the Moorish Government still maintain that the troubles are fomented by the neighbouring tribes under French protection.

The Moorish Government do not, I am told, consider that the disturbances are likely to endanger the authority of the Sultan in those parts, as, if matters become serious, they are of opinion that by assisting the weaker side with Government troops they will easily overcome the opposite party, and they look to an appeal being shortly made to their support by both the contending parties, and that thus they will become masters of the situation. This view is a sanguine one, and the results which attended the recent dispatch of an expeditionary force to Tafilet would hardly appear to justify it. Much will depend on the attitude of the Viceroy of Tafilet, and as to this point there seem to be very conflicting reports.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. NICOLSON.

No. 44.

Sir A. Nicolson to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(Received February 25.)

(No. 22.)
My Lord, *Tangier, February 15, 1897.*

I HAVE been informed that the French Minister recently wrote a note to the Grand Vizier conveying his thanks for the friendly manner in which the Moorish Government had

settled the matter of the late piracy on a French vessel, and expressing the hope that all questions between the French and Moorish Governments would in future be also terminated in a similarly satisfactory manner.

I inquired of M. de Moubel yesterday whether the case as to the Riff piracy had been in fact arranged, and what indemnity had been paid as compensation.

M. de Moubel said that the Moorish Government had satisfactorily settled the case in principle, and that he anticipated no difficulty in obtaining payment of an indemnity. He was still awaiting instructions from his Government as to the amount of indemnity to be claimed, but this he considered a question of detail which would be speedily arranged.

I believe the Riffian prisoners who were captured by the Spanish authorities are still awaiting their trial, but I have been unable to obtain any definite information on this point, as the Spanish Minister has been seriously ill for some time past, and incapable of attending to business.

I may mention that the Moorish steamer "Hassanee" left some days ago for England to undergo repairs, but I have not heard whether, on her return, the Moorish Government propose to utilize her on the Riffian coast.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. NICOLSON.

No. 45.

Sir A. Nicolson to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(*Received February* 25.)

(No. 23.)
My Lord, *Tangier, February* 15, 1897.

I RECEIVED lately information from the Court to the effect that the Moorish Government had decided to send a Mission to Paris in the course of this year, and that the Envoy had been selected, as well as his Secretary. The Envoy, Ben Seleman, is at present with the expedition in the Sûs district, but has been called to Court to make his preparations. His Secretary, I am informed, will be his brother, Cid Abdul Kerim, who is one of the Grand Vizier's Secretaries, and who accompanied in the same capacity the last Moorish Mission to Madrid.

I asked M. de Moubel yesterday whether he had heard anything on the subject, and he told me that he was aware that the question of sending a Mission to France was under consideration, and that as the Moorish Government had satisfactorily settled the long outstanding claims in regard to raids on the Algerian frontier, he had let it be understood that a Mission would be welcomed in Paris. He added that, on his own initiative, he had instructed the French Agent at the Court to suggest to the Moorish Government that, in order to avoid any misunderstandings, it would be well if a Mission were sent to England.

I made no remark on this action on the part of M. de Moubel, which no doubt was well meant, but in regard to which it might have been preferable if he had previously consulted with me. It is quite possible that the French Agent will not be very expeditious in carrying out this portion of his instructions.

I asked M. de Moubel whether he knew at what date the Mission would be likely to leave for France, and he replied that he understood it would start towards the end of April.

I do not know if your Lordship would, in the circumstances, wish me to revive the question of a Mission to England. Should your Lordship not desire me to do so, I will leave the matter alone. If, on the other hand, the Moorish Government suggest the Mission of their own initiative, I would act on the instructions conveyed to me in your Lordship's despatch No. 72 of the 22nd July last, and receive their proposal favourably, or should a Mission this year be inconvenient, I could, I think, have it again postponed without causing disappointment.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. NICOLSON.

No. 46.

Sir A. Nicolson to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(*Received February* 26.)

(No. 4.)
(Telegraphic.) P. *Tangier, February* 26, 1897.

KAÏD MACLEAN has been informed by the Grand Vizier that his Excellency has heard that the Globe Venture Syndicate contemplate the dispatch of merchandize to the Sus. His Excellency said that if such a thing does occur the goods will be confiscated, and all the persons concerned in landing the same will be arrested by the Moorish Government.

The Vizier was counselled by Kaïd Maclean to communicate first with this Legation before taking any steps. This course was apparently agreed to by his Excellency.

No. 47.

Sir A. Nicolson to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(*Received March* 8.)

(No. 24.)
My Lord, *Tangier, February* 22, 1897.

IT is reported in the Spanish press of Tangier that official confirmation has been received of a serious rising of the tribes in the neighbourhood of Melilla against the Basha of that district. It is stated that the tribe of Benisicar, one of the most warlike and important of the Kabilas, has declined to recognize the authority of the Basha, and has chosen a Governor of their own. The Basha appears to be on the defensive, and has appealed for assistance to the two tribes of Mazuza and Frajana, in whose loyalty he has some confidence.

The Spanish Commandant, it is further stated, has reported to the Ministry of War that he has taken measures for watching and guarding the frontier, and that hitherto no act of hostility has been committed against the Spanish lines. I will endeavour to procure some independent information as to the rising, and to ascertain whether it is of so serious a character as the Spanish papers wish the public to believe.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. NICOLSON.

No. 48.

Sir A. Nicolson to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(*Received March* 8.)

(No. 25 B.)
My Lord, *Tangier, February* 24, 1897.

WITH reference to my despatch No. 175 of the 20th December, 1895, relative to the arrest and identification of two of the Riffians alleged to have been participators in the piratical attack on the British vessel "Virgen de los Angeles," I have the honour to report that these men, with others, have recently been transferred from Tetuan to the custody of the Basha of Tangier. I consequently informed the latter of the case against the two above-mentioned prisoners, and explained to him that they have to be kept in prison and not released without previous consultation with this Legation.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. NICOLSON.

No. 49.

Sir A. Nicolson to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(*Received March* 6.)

(No. 27.)
My Lord, *Tangier, February* 26, 1897.

I HAVE the honour to transmit copy of a despatch which I have received from Mr. Vice-Consul Forde, reporting what would appear to be a somewhat serious assault at Alcazar on a British subject, Mr. E. Carleton, by some soldiers of Kaïd El Khalkhali. As Mr. Forde is incapacitated from proceeding to Alcazar himself, and

as that place is within a short two days' journey from Tangier, I have instructed Mr. Madden, Clerk to this Legation, to proceed there in order to inquire into what actually occurred. I have told Mr. Madden that he is not to stay longer than two days at Alcazar, and that his travelling and other expenses are not to exceed 10*l.*

I trust your Lordship will approve of this step, but I do not like to intrust an inquiry to the two private individuals mentioned by Mr. Forde, and as the case may present some gravity, I thought it best that an official should at once make an inquiry on the spot.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. NICOLSON.

Inclosure in No. 49.

Vice-Consul Forde to Sir A. Nicolson.

Sir, *Laraiche, February* 23, 1897.

YESTERDAY afternoon I received a short note from Alcazar written by Mr. E. Carleton, saying that he was badly wounded, having been attacked by soldiers of Kaïd El Khalkhali, and requesting me to send somebody to investigate. It being physically impossible for me to go to Alcazar, I wrote to the British subjects, Messrs. Jacob Fereres and Huges Engerer, who are both there, commissioning them to make a careful inquiry and to collect all possible information bearing on the matter. I also sent them a letter from the Governor of Laraiche for his Khalifa in Al-Ksar, ordering him to assist them in their inquiry. Fearing that Mr. E. Carleton might be dangerously wounded, I, further, obtained a letter from the French Consular Agent here for the French Consular Representative in Alcazar, requesting him to receive and draw up Mr. E. Carleton's deposition, if necessary.

To-day I received a letter from Mr. J. Fereres, from which I was glad to learn that, although Mr. E. Carleton is confined to bed suffering from severe contusions, there was no danger of a fatal result, although an attempt was made to stab him. He tells me that he and Mr. H. Engerer are collecting evidence, but gives no detailed information as to what occurred or the motive for the assault.

I hope to be able to furnish your Excellency with a full report in the course of a few days.

I am, &c.
(Signed) LEWIS FORDE.

No. 50.

Sir A. Nicolson to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(*Received March* 8.)

(No. 28.)
My Lord, *Tangier, February* 27, 1897.

WITH reference to previous correspondence, I have the honour to report that I have been informed by Kaïd Maclean that the Grand Vizier mentioned to him that he had heard that the Globe Venture Syndicate proposed to send merchandize to the Sus district. His Excellency said that should this intention be carried out, the Moorish Government would confiscate, as contraband, any goods which were landed, and would also arrest any persons concerned in their disembarkation.

Kaïd Maclean advised the Vizier not to arrest any British subjects without first communicating with this Legation, and his Excellency appeared disposed to follow this advice.

I have received no information which would confirm the report that had reached the Vizier as to the intended landing of merchandize; and no agent of the Company or other person has hitherto addressed himself to this Legation on the subject.

I beg leave to transmit to your Lordship copy of a Memorandum which has been drawn up by Mr. Madden in regard to what occurred in 1883 and 1884 with respect to the opening of the Sus district by the Sus and North African Company.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. NICOLSON.

Inclosure in No. 50.

Memorandum of Correspondence in 1883 *and* 1884 *in Archives of the British Legation, Tangier, respecting Contraband in Sus; or, the Sus and North African Company.*

1883.

CONSUL PAYTON informed Sir John Hay, in March 1883, that he learnt, from a private source, that a merchant-steamer, supposed British, had anchored off the Ait Bou Amran coast near Ifni; that Mr. James Curtis had gone to meet the vessel, and that an Arabic-speaking person had landed from the steamer, and had asked the natives to assist in landing the cargo, and that the majority appeared disinclined to take the responsibility of doing so. — From Mr. Payton, March 11, 1883.

Sir John Hay addressed a private note to the Moorish Vizier, telling him of the reported presence of the merchant Curtis amongst the Ait Bou Amran, and arrival of a steamer there which had been anchored at Assaka; that on payment of money to a Kaïd that official had allowed the goods to be landed, and that although some of the people objected, others approved and vowed that Curtis should not be molested. Sir John continues by saying that if this report be true, it is due to the dissatisfaction of the tribesmen that no port had been opened on their coast, as the Sultan had promised them; and that so long as money was to be made merchants would continue to send vessels. Sir John requests that this be brought before the Sultan. — Sir John Hay to Vizier, March 22, 1883.

Sir John Hay expresses similar views as in the letter to the Vizier for the encouragement said to have been given by the tribesmen to the enterprise. — To Mr. Payton, March 21, 1883.

On the 22nd March the Vizier writes officially to say that some Chiefs of Ait Bou Amran had written to report that Curtis had brought a ship to their coast and had entered into relations with disorderly persons, and had sold them grain and other articles; and that they, the Chiefs, had eschewed all responsibility for whatever might befall him or his agents. That His Shereefian Majesty had replied that the Chiefs were to punish the evil-doers who were in communication with Curtis; but they were to secure Curtis' safety by arresting him, and sending him to Mogador through the Governor of Agadir. The Vizier denied all responsibility for whatever happens to Curtis if he remained there, and no claim for his sales of goods would be admitted. — The Vizier, Ben Mochtar, to Sir John Hay, March 22, 1883.

On the 2nd April, Sir John replies officially to the Vizier's letter of the 22nd March. He says that Mr. Curtis had been frequently warned by Her Majesty's Consular officers, and that, therefore, the responsibility for his acts rests solely with him. Sir John repeats his conviction that such adventurers will continue so long as the Sultan delays in carrying out his intention of opening a port or ports on the Sus coast for trading purposes with Europeans. Sir John regrets that the Sultan's authority appears to be disregarded in the Sus; otherwise His Majesty's Governor there would never have permitted Curtis or others to remain there. — Sir John Hay to the Vizier, April 2, 1883.

Sir John, in sending the foregoing official correspondence to the Foreign Office, reports a conversation with the Sultan's Agent in Tangier, Cid Mohamed Bargash, who declared that the Sultan would open ultimately one or two ports on the Sus coast, but that there was a difficulty in finding a safe place for communication, and an adequate water supply. His Excellency also told Sir John that he was going to write, stating that as Curtis had infracted the fiscal laws by landing goods on the coast where no Custom-houses existed, he would be prosecuted for smuggling, as laid down in Article XIII of the Commercial Convention of 1856 between Great Britain and Morocco, on his (Curtis') return to a port where a Consul is resident. — Sir John Hay to Earl Granville, No. 26, April 4, 1883.

Sir John also reports the rumour that on receipt of the Sultan's orders outlawing the tribe the Moors had returned on shore, and the Chistians had returned to the ship, which had sailed away. — From Mr. Payton, April 2, 1883.

The Foreign Office approved Sir John Hay's reply to the Moorish Vizier of the 2nd April. — From Earl Granville, No. 16, April 20, 1883.

The next document in the series is a despatch to Government reporting what passed at a conversation between Sir John Hay and M. Ordéga, the French Minister, who told Sir John that he had received a despatch from the French Consul at Mogador, stating that Curtis had disembarked from the coast accompanied by a son of one of the Chiefs, who was supposed to be commissioned to — Sir John Hay to Earl Granville, No. 27, April 5, 1883, Confidential.

assure the Sus and North African Company that they could trade where they liked on the Sus coast. Sir John told the French Minister that Curtis' transactions had not received the support of Her Majesty's Government, but that we had advised the Sultan to open a port or ports on the southern coast of his empire to allow of trade, and to insure His Majesty's sovereignty *de facto*. The French Minister told Sir John that a venerated Shereef, Cid Hosein-el-Hashen, of Sus, descendant of a former Shereefian dynasty of Morocco, had offered to cede to France a trading site on the coast, but that he should "take no notice of this offer."

To Mr. Payton, April 2, 1883.

Sir John here says to the Consul that the Sultan's authority in Ait Bou Amrau is a shadow, and that until a port is opened, such adventurers will not cease to give trouble. He informs the Consul of Sultan's intention to have Curtis arrested and sent to Mogador.

Sir John Hay to Earl Granville, No 30, April 8, 1883.

On the 8th April Sir John expresses to Her Majesty's Government the fear that if the Sus and North African Company continue to send emissaries to Sus with a view of carrying on smuggling transactions, a catastrophe is to be feared.

Sir John Hay to Earl Granville, No. 31, April 11, 1883.

On the 11th April Sir John Hay transmitted to the Foreign Office from Cid Mohamed Bargash (9th April, 1882) a letter, asking that British Consular officers may be instructed to attend to the charges which will be brought against the British subject, James Curtis, for having infringed the fiscal laws of Morocco by landing goods on the coast of Sus.

Sir John Hay to Earl Granville, No. 37, April 11, 1883.

This reports the dispatch of 1,000 men from Morocco to chastise the coast's tribe where Curtis' steamer had landed goods and aided disembarkation of cargo.

Commander said to have orders to arrest Curtis, and send him to Mogador.

Sir John also says it is reported that on the late visit to Court of the French Secretary of Legation, M. Montfraix, the Sultan had refused to cede to the French Government a port on the Sus coast.

Sir John Hay to Earl Granville, No. 39, May 7, 1883.

This was sending extracts from two of Consul Payton's letters reporting news of the Sus and North African Company's doings on the coast.

From Mr. Payton, April 19, 1883.

Mr. Payton writes that the Mogador sympathisers of the Company base their justification for the recent operations of the Company on :—

Article IV, General Treaty 1856. Right of British subjects to travel in Sultan's dominions.

Article V, General Treaty 1856. Right to reside and trade anywhere in Sultan's dominions.

Article XI, Madrid Convention 1880. Right of foreigners to hold property; the Company being said to have bought 200 miles of sea-board.

Consul Payton hears also that the steamer was still on the coast, and rice, barley, and tea were being sold at the markets of Cid Hamed-ou-Moussa, but that disturbances were going on, on account of Sultan's letters outlawing the tribe.

From Mr. Payton May 1, 1883.

Reporting passage of a steamer northward, and the rumour of the arrest of Mr. Curtis and another Christian near Messah.

To Mr. Payton, May 7, 1883

In this Sir John Hay declares to the Consul that the arguments of the Company's friends at Mogador are worthless. Article IV, Treaty 1856, clearly stipulates that when British subjects travel, they must do so with the knowledge of the authorities. Neither Article V of General Treaty nor Article justify British subjects in carrying on a contraband trade on open coast of Morocco.

Sir John Hay to Earl Granville, No. 41, May 28, 1883.

Here the arrival of Mr. Curtis and Mr. Andrews from Sus, escorted by a Moorish Government soldier and some Agadir boatmen at Mogador, is reported. Mr. Payton reports that Curtis was given a house by the Moorish authorities who, after the first day, put no restraint on Curtis' movements, and he went to church in full Arab costume. Curtis told Mr. Consul Payton that he had not been arrested, but that the Sultan's messengers had come, saying His Shereefian Majesty wished to see him, and he could go or not as he liked. He decided to go and some of the local Chiefs (who had gone direct to Morocco with the Sultan's messengers) went with him after taking a few days to dispatch the steamer.

Mr. Payton, No. 19, May 17, 1883.

Curtis said he landed at a place called Eksheesh (near Guida in Jackson's map), 35 miles south of Agoula, where landing was good in fine weather. Mr. Curtis said he questioned the jurisdiction of the Consulate at Mogador for any

thing which happened at Sus, but Consul Payton told him that the Consulate would exercise jurisdiction if the Moorish authorities brought charge against him. Messrs. Curtis and Andrews left Mogador for Morocco city on the 9th May. A man from Agloo said that Eksheesh was in the Sbouya tribe, and that on the arrival of the Sultan's troops the tribesmen said they did not fear them but they respected the Makhzen, and would do nothing until their Chiefs had been up to Court to settle the question of a port for trading.

In the inclosures in Mr. Payton's No. 19 is a correspondence with Kaïd Ragregy, of Mogador, who warns the Consul against Curtis' return to Ait Bou Amran. Mr. Payton in reply thanks the Kaïd for the care taken of Mr. Curtis, and expresses his readiness to hear any charge against Curtis brought against him in the usual way.

Sir John Hay to Earl Granville, No. 46, June 5, 1883.

Reporting return of Messrs. Andrews and Curtis from Morocco city at Mogador. Mr. Curtis had gone to Morocco under the impression that the Sultan would see him; but it was evidently a trick to get him to Mogador without any opposition on his part. Points out risk if Mr. Curtis or other agents of the Company treat further with the inhabitants of Sus.

From Mr. Payton, May 30, 1883.

From Mr. Payton, June 4, 1883.

The Consul in this reports the rumoured intention of the Moorish Government to fortify Tizneet north of Aglow, possibly as a check on the Sus and North African Company, and such like.

Sir John Hay to Earl Granville, No. 67, June 16, 1883.

This was a despatch to Government sending extract of a letter from the Sultan to Cid Mohamed Bargash, communicated by the latter, in which His Shereefian Majesty states that Curtis had not been received at Court, and that the Consul at Mogador had not acted up to Treaty stipulations, as he had failed to try Curtis for his proceedings. Cid Mohamed Bargash admitted, however, to Sir John in conversation that the Consul could not have done otherwise than he did, as the Governor of Mogador had not taken any formal steps to prosecute Curtis. Cid Bargash warned Sir John that any further landing on the coast without the Government's authority would be at the peril of the persons concerned. His Excellency also said that the Moorish Government were sending a vessel with grain to Erksees.*

The French Minister told Sir John that he had been introduced to Curtis by the captain of the French steamer from Mogador; and that Curtis had told his Excellency that he was going to return to the Sus, heedless of all warnings.

From Earl Granville, No. 26, June 15, 1883.

Consul Payton's action, as reported in Sir John Hay's No. 41 of the 28th May, approved by Her Majesty's Government.

Sir John Hay to Earl Granville, No. 55, June 29, 1883.

This covered a tracing of a map presumably published by the Sus and North African Company, showing a port named Ifni or Port Hillsborough as having been concessioned to the Company. Cid Mohamed Bargash, to whom the map was shown, assured Sir John that it was out of the question to suppose that any such concession made by the Chiefs of Sus tribes would be acknowledged by the Moorish Government, and that the Sultan had already sent a body of troops to Tizneet to be stationed there for the prevention of smuggling transactions like that of Mr. Curtis.

Sir John Hay to Earl Granville, No. 62, July 12, 1883.

Reporting Mr. Payton's communications—

Mr Payton's No. 27, July 4.

1. That Sus and North African Company had issued a new prospectus, calling attention to the fact that a post is established and trade going on regularly, and calling for more money.

2. Reporting rumour that everything had been plundered and seized at Eksheesh, and that a Sultan's soldier was killed by a native employé of the Company, a "Saheb James." That the last report received stated that all was well, and the British flag flying over the goods landed.

Sir John expresses his regret that the Company should hoist a British flag over goods landed on the Sultan's territory, in contravention of the Customs laws.

From Lord Granville No. 30, July 5, 1883.

This was sending copies of a correspondence with the Sus and North African Company. The Company sent a translation of the Treaty under which the Company was formed, and asked for Consular assistance to their trade. The Company also sent to Foreign Office (copy sent in despatch) a report from Mr. Curtis, in which he says that the Ruler of Sus is Sidi Hussein-bin-Hashem, son of the late Sultan of Sus, and who have always been independent of any other Power, and that Prince Hussein is the principal Sgnatory of the

The Sus and North African Company's Concession Treaty.

* Sometimes called Port Hillsborough in English maps, latitude 29° north.

Convention. The Treaty is between the Sheikhs of Ait Bou Amran and Messrs. Jub, Brauer, Broome, and Curtis, and consists of four clauses. It demands from the Sheikhs a post at Ifni or Mohammed-ben-Abdullah, or at some suitable spot in Ait Bou Amran; with a piece of land for their own and no other person's use exclusively, for trading and security of persons and goods.

Lord Granville declined to modify the decision arrived at with reference to the proceedings of the Company in the Sultan of Morocco's territories, as addressed to them on the 21st December, 1881.*

From Earl Granville, No. 34, August 16, 1883.

Mr. Curtis next addressed Earl Granville, asking his Lordship to instruct Her Majesty's Agent in Morocco to suffer him to continue his business at his own risk; but this was refused.

To Mr. Payton, August 15, 1883.

Sir John says he hopes Mr. Curtis will not be so ill-advised as to return to Eksheesh. His reception at Foreign Office would not have encouraged him to do so. Sir John thinks London agents have opened their eyes to their mistake.

From Earl Granville, No. 38, August 16, 1883.

His Lordship asks for a report on a claim made by the Sus and North African Company to the Foreign Office for 10,000*l.*, for robbery and plunder of their goods at Eksheesh, in Moorish territory, about the 27th June, 1883, by orders, as Company state, of the Sultan of Morocco, His Majesty's troops being only a quarter of a-mile away; the Commander having beaten, ill-treated, and imprisoned the native servants of the Company.

From Cid Mohamed Bargash, August 26, 1883.

Cid Mohamed Bargash then reports to the British Legation the arrest of two Moorish servants of the Sus and North African Company at Eksheesh and seizure of the Company's goods, and he transmits an inventory of the things seized.

Mr. H. P. White to Earl Granville, No. 78, August 27, 1883.

Mr. White here cites the inventory sent by Bargash, according to which the goods would scarcely be worth over 100*l.*, and he refutes the Company's claim (Foreign Office No. 38, 16th August) which they make, although it is in conformity with Article XIII of the Commercial Convention of 1856 that the goods have been confiscated to the Sultan. Mr. White calls his Lordship's attention to the notice put in the "Times" early in 1882 at the desire of Mohamed Bargash, that any trading in Sus would be considered as smuggling and no claims would be entertained, and no Sheikhs had authority to make any agreement with foreign subjects, the whole of the Sus coast being within the Sultan's dominions. Mohamed Bargash caused a similar notice to be put into the "Times" on the 23rd April, 1883.

Notifications in the "Times" of the Moorish authorities against trading in Sus.

Mr. H. P. White to Earl Granville, No. 79, August 29 1883.

Then came a communication to Government, asking for instructions how to act respecting a complaint of Mr. Andrews respecting the arrest of two of Sus and North African Company's native employés (Vice-Consul Payton's No. 33).

From Lord Granville, No. 42, September 22, 1883.

Her Majesty's Government then declined to interfere, since some of the Company's property had been seized as contraband, and since repeated warnings had been given to the Company.

Mr. Payton's, November 2, 1883.

In this he reports that the captain of the steamer "Fez," which had taken grain down to the people at Eksheesh, reported the place as bad for landing and the country barren.

Sir John Hay to the Vizier, November 7, 1883, Confidential.

Sir John sends the Vizier a copy of the Agreement entered into by certain Chiefs of the Sus and the Mogador agents of the Sus and North African Company. Sir John adds that the British Government and himself had rejected their claims, although the Company say they were misled into the idea that Sus was not within the Sultan's dominions.

From Lord Granville, No. 55, December 22, 1883.

A correspondence is here sent with the Sus and North African Company's agents. Sir John is instructed to urge the Sultan to liberate the imprisoned employés of the Company as an act of grace; and his Lordship asks for a report on the Company's statement, that the goods were landed with the knowledge and sanction of an officer of the Sultan, Kaïd Boazza, and that the Sultan's Envoy himself made no objection as to illegal traffic.

His Lordship adds that if the Company were victims of a deception practised on them by the Sultan's officers, further inquiry would be called for.

* This letter from the Foreign Office warned the Sus and North African Company "that they must not expect protection from Her Majesty's Government in the event of any measures being taken by the Sultan to prevent illegal trading along the coast under agreement with native Chiefs who have no authority to enter into them."

1884.

Then came the inquiry addressed to Mohamed Bargash according to Lord Granville's orders in No. 55 of the 22nd December and his reply, saying he cannot believe in Kaïd Boazza's connivance, but has asked for a report from Court. He does not admit the plea for the two imprisoned Moors, that they were only obeying the orders of the Company.

To Mohamed Bargash, January 4.

Further letter, as marked in the margin, passed with Earl Granville, transmitting copies of correspondence.

To Earl Granville, No. 3, January 8, 1884.

To Earl Granville, No. 10, February 6, 1884.

Then Sir John Hay was instructed to urge release of Company's servants, and to see that the inquiry as to the circumstances under which the Company's goods were introduced into Sus be promply carried out.

From Earl Granville, No. 2, February 4, 1884.

Sir John Hay at once again addressed Mohamed Bargash as instructed, but the Court's reply came soon after. This reply declared that Kaïd Boazza never encouraged the landing or guaranteed the safety of the Company's goods, but he did guarantee that Curtis should be taken in safety to Mogador; the charges against the Sultan's Agent are refuted. He promises pardon to the imprisoned servants, out of consideration for Sir John Hay's intercession, on condition that a safety was given that they would never again engage in contraband trade, and (2) that they would not return again to those districts.

To Mohamed Bargash, March 3, 1884.

This was reported to the Foreign Office, as well as the steps taken by Sir J. Hay, through Consul Payton, to get the necessary security sent to the Governor of Morocco, where the men were interned.

To Earl Granville, No. 18, March 12, 1884.

The Sus and North African Company then addressed the Foreign Office, asking that a letter of introduction be given to their Tangier agent, Mr. Cohen, to the Moorish Court, to enable him to get the Company's claim settled. Lord Granville declined till a report was received.

From Earl Granville, No. 8, March 13, 1884.

Sir John then communicates copy of an article in "Al Maghreb," attacking his policy in dealing with the Sus and North African Company's and other British cases, and refutes it at length. Foreign Office replied that no importance was attached to it.

To Earl Granville, No. 19, March 23, 1884.

From Earl Granville, No. 10, March 25, 1884.

Then Sir John replies to Foreign Office No. 8 of the 13th March, and says that Mr. Cohen, who is the Company's agent, is editor of the French newspaper "Réveil du Maroc," which is inspired by the French Legation. Sir John hints that M. Ordéga, the French Minister, has taken some underhand part in the matter of the Sus and North African Company through their agent Cohen, with a view to getting Her Majesty's Government to support their claim, on the ground that the Sultan cannot claim Sus as part of his dominions, and thus create, what M. Ordéga openly speaks of desiring, an important step in destroying the integrity of the Sultan's territories. Trusts Her Majesty's Government will not direct him to have any communication with Mr. Cohen.

To Earl Granville, No. 23, March 22, 1884.

Some further correspondence with the Moorish authorities took place respecting the liberation of the imprisoned Moors and with the Foreign Office respecting the Company's claim, which the Foreign Office finally declined to support.

To Bargash, March 11, 1884.

From Lord Granville, No. 11, March 29, 1884.

On the 12th June, 1884, Sir John addressed Earl Granville a copy of a despatch from Mr. Payton (No. 34 of the 6th June, 1884), reporting arrival of the prisoners at Mogador, and their release after exchange of guarantees required.

From Earl Granville, No. 12, April 8, 1884.

British Legation, Tangier, January 10, 1897.

No. 51.

Sir A. Nicolson to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(Received March 8.)

(No. 29.)
My Lord, *Tangier, February 27, 1897.*

I HAVE the honour to transmit to your Lordship copy of a despatch with its inclosures from Mr. Vice-Consul Macleod relative to the question of placing night guards at the British Vice-Consulate at Fez. It seems to me that the guards should certainly be a charge on the Moorish Government; and I propose to approve the reply which Mr. Macleod has sent to the Acting Governor. In connection with the matter of guards the custom in the several towns seems to be different, as while in Fez the Government wish to impose guards on foreign residences, in Tangier the Governor declines to supply them even when asked for. The Legation bankers at Tangier applied for a night guard over their business premises; but the Governor declined to grant one, and I consequently informed him that if any robbery occurred on the premises I should hold him personally responsible. This warning, however, had no effect.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. NICOLSON.

Inclosure 1 in No. 51.

Vice-Consul Macleod to Sir A. Nicolson.

(No. 6.)
Sir, *Fez, February 19, 1897.*

I HAVE the honour to inclose herewith a copy and translation of a letter which the Acting Governor of Fez has addressed to me respecting the prevalence of robberies here lately, and in which he states that the Sultan has ordered that two soldiers, to be paid by me, are to be allotted me for guards. A similar letter was sent to the French Vice-Consul, so we discussed the subject together and have replied in the sense of the letter, of which I inclose also a copy and translation. In this matter I have followed the instructions embodied in Sir Ernest Satow's despatch to me No. 59 of the 16th November, 1893. For your Excellency's information I would observe that both the French Vice-Consul and myself have one or more native servants at our houses regularly, and so that we consider that the sending of two soldiers each night by the Governor is intended not so much to protect our lives and property as to prevent the raising of claims upon the Moorish Treasury.

Moreover, the cost of two such watchmen would be at least 6 dollars per month. My rent is 8 dollars per month and the French Vice-Consul's 15 dollars.

The demand of the Moorish Government, therefore, is equivalent to a police rate of 8*s.* in the £ upon the French Vice-Consul and 15*s.* in the £ upon me, while the rest of the town goes free.

I have, &c.
(Signed) J. M. MACLEOD.

Inclosure 2 in No. 51.

Sir E. Satow to Vice-Consul Macleod.

(No. 59.)
Sir, *November 16, 1893.*

I HAVE received your despatch No. 82 of the 6th instant reporting on the increasing lawlessness in the city of Fez and its district.

I approve of your impressing on British subjects residing in Fez the desirability of their being always attended by a Moslem servant or soldier when they move about the city, as a protection against the insults of a fanatical population.

I think the question of having servants sleeping in the house should be left to the convenience of the individual householder.

With regard to the guard placed at Mr. Edward's garden at the suggestion of the

Basha, it appears to me that it would be reasonable that this expense should not fall on the British subject. If you find a convenient opportunity it would be well to impress upon the Basha that the duty of maintaining public order and protecting property is incumbent on the Government, and that the guard he considers necessary for Mr. Edward's garden ought therefore to be provided at the expense of the Sultan.

I am, &c.
(Signed) ERNEST SATOW.

Inclosure 3 in No. 51.

The Acting Governor of Fez to Vice-Consul Macleod.

Praise to God alone!

(After compliments.) 16 *Ramadan*, 1314 (*February* 18, 1897).

WHEREAS, robberies have occurred in the city (recently) at night, we worked energetically to the end that the criminals might be caught, and informed the Sultan —may God glorify him—of the foregoing, and he—God preserve him—has commanded that two soldiers be allotted to you for the purpose of guarding you. And their wages in full are chargeable to you. Answer as you think fitting.

(Signed) ABDELMEGED BENSHKROON.
(God be gracious to him.)

Inclosure 4 in No. 51.

Vice-Consul Macleod to the Acting Governor of Fez.

Praise to the one God!

(After compliments.) 17 *Ramadan*, 1314 (*February* 19, 1897).

YOUR letter reached me, in which you say that there have been robberies in this city lately at night and that you had informed His Shereefian Majesty—God protect him—of the same, and that His Shereefian Majesty had ordered that two soldiers were to be allotted as guards for me, and that their wages would be payable by me.

I inform you that I do not demand anything more than is conformable with usage, namely, that each householder does his best to take care of his own place; and that thereafter it is the Magli who are responsible for and chargeable for the safe-keeping of life and property.

Peace.

No. 52.

Sir A. Nicolson to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(Received March 10.)

(No. 30.)
My Lord, *Tangier, March 2, 1897.*

WITH reference to my despatch No. 27 of the 26th ultimo, I have the honour to transmit copy of a despatch which I have received from Mr. Vice-Consul Forde relative to the assault on Mr. Carleton, and also copy of the sworn statement of that gentleman. These inclosures give the main facts of the case, and the assault would appear to have been quite unprovoked, and is much aggravated by the fact of it having occurred in the presence of the Kaïd.

I also beg leave to inclose copy of a note which I have addressed to the Grand Vizier on the matter. I thought it best to allow him in the first place to propose what punishment should be inflicted upon the Kaïd, as I am of opinion that there is more likelihood of it being a severe one if the Vizier is permitted to propose one spontaneously than if one is suggested and pressure put upon him to inflict it. Looking at the whole facts of the case, I think the dismissal of the Kaïd is the only adequate punishment, and also possibly an indemnity to Mr. Carleton; but on this latter point I should like to hear

from that gentleman whether he desires any. In regard to these questions, I will address your Lordship later when I have received a reply from the Vizier.

Mr. Madden will, I fear, have missed Mr. Carleton at Alcazar, but his mission thither will have a good effect, and will show the authorities that the incident which has occurred is considered to be a grave one, and not one to be treated lightly.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. NICOLSON.

Inclosure 1 in No. 52.

Vice-Consul Forde to Sir A. Nicolson.

(No. 6.)

Sir, *Laraiche, March* 1, 1897.

WITH reference to my despatch No. 5 of the 23rd ultimo regarding an attack made on Mr. Edmund P. Carleton in Alcazar on the previous day by soldiers of Kaïd-el-Khalkhali, who has his residence in that town, I have now to report to your Excellency that Mr. E. Carleton arrived here on the evening of the 26th ultimo, and made his statement on oath at this office of what occurred to him, and that I received from Messrs. J. Freres and H. Engerer some documents containing important evidence bearing on the case.

I now beg to transmit herewith the following documents referring to this outrage:—

No. 1. Copy and translation of a letter addressed to me by Kaïd-el-Khalkhali, dated the 20th Ramadam, 1314 (22nd February, 1897), giving his version of the affair, but which, from my knowledge of the man, and the documentary evidence of respectable Moors, Jews, and Christians which was subsequently furnished to me, I believe to be quite devoid of truth in almost if not every detail. To this letter I replied, acknowledging its receipt, and informing the Kaïd that I was investigating the matter.

No. 2. Copy of a letter of the 23rd instant from Messrs. J. Fereres and H. Engerer, whom I had commissioned to make a searching inquiry, transmitting four documents of importance.

Nos. 3, 4, 5, 6. The four documents referred to in No. 2.

No. 7. Declaration of the two Jewish merchants, Menahem J. Nahon and Mesod Muyali.

No. 8. Report furnished by Messrs. J. Freres and H. Engerer.

No. 9. Certified copy of Mr. E. Carleton. Affidavit.

On the 27th ultimo I called on the Basha of Laraiche, chiefly in connection with the "Beena" (Inclosure 3), or notarial document, containing the declaration before Adools of twelve Moors, in order to elicit from him his opinion as to the standing and character of the declarants, as he had resided as Governor for some considerable time in Alcazar. He knew most of the twelve Moors, and his Secretary all but two, and their opinion bears out what I had already heard of them, that they were persons of well-known good conduct and respectability, some of them occupying high positions in the town; none of them are persons likely to offer false testimony in any matter, and much less in favour of a Christian against an important Government employé. During our conversation, at which Mr. E. Carleton and Mr. Moses Abecasis were present, the Basha spontaneously informed me that one of the chief Moors in this district, Buselham-ben-Amar, told him that the "Christian Bibi" (Mr. E. Carleton) had been disgracefully treated, and had all the right on his side. The Basha further said that his Khalifa in Alcazar had written in regard to this matter to the effect that Kaïd-el-Khalkhali's soldier tried to stab Mr. E. Carleton, on which the latter struck him with a stick.

The delaration above mentioned of twelve Moors and Mr. E. Carleton's affidavit, as also what above Moor, Buselham-ben-Amar, said to the Basha, and the letter from latter's Khalifa, refute in every detail Kaïd-el-Khalkhali's version of this case, as contained in his letter to me (Inclosure 1). Again, if what he says were true, there was no occasion for him to send his Khalifa and another, as evidenced in Inclosure 4, on the evening of the outrage to Mr. E. Carleton, and again on the following morning to Mr. J. Fereres, to entreat them not to carry the matter further, but to leave it in the Kaïd's hands, and that he would have the aggressors severely punished; they also begged Mr. Fereres to try and induce "Bibi" (Mr. E. Carleton) to pardon Kaïd-el-Khalkhali.

Mr. E. Carleton positively swears that he had no fire-arms or weapon of any description whatever at the time, and I give full credence to this, because, if he had had

any such, he would, after the provocation he received, undoubtedly have used it and to some purpose.

The assault on and attempted murder of Mr. E. Carleton by Kaïd-el-Khalkhali's soldiers and others of his followers were committed in his presence, and there can be no doubt that in his hearing the same soldiers most grossly insulted not only Mr. Carleton, but also the nation to which that gentleman has the honour to belong.

The declarants in documents Nos. 4, 5, 6, and 7 are all except one, Ed Cabo, who is a Spaniard acting as correspondent in Alcazar to the Spanish Consulate here, Jewish merchants of good social and commercial position, well known in Alcazar and here and most of them in Tangier also.

This Kaïd-el-Khalkhali is the most obnoxious Moorish authority I have ever had to treat with during my long residence in Morocco. He is coarse, insolent, and, in my opinion, devoid of principle; he invariably makes a point of obstinately thwarting and annoying foreign subjects and protégés and any native having connection with them. His soldiers and followers are, as a rule, like himself, or, if possible, worse. An instance of the class of soldiers in his service came under my personal observation in November 1894, when, acting on instructions from the Legation, I proceeded to the district where the wreck of the ship "Benalder" occurred to enable me to furnish a full report to Sir E. Satow. On my requesting Kaïd-el-Khalkhali to let me have a soldier to accompany me, I was surprised afterwards to find that he had sent me a man who had recently been liberated from prison, where he had been incarcerated for some years for having committed a number of horribly cold-blooded murders.

There is, I am informed, a case still pending arising from Kaïd-el-Khalkhali's soldier, the same who tried to murder Mr. E. Carleton, having, it is alleged, insulted and beaten a Brazilian protégé in the entrance passage of the Kaïd's house.

A man such as Kaïd-el-Khalkhali finding himself in trouble would have no scruple in presenting false evidence or in terrorizing his people into fabricating and preparing the necessary documents.

When about to close this despatch Mr. Carleton handed me three fresh documents which he had just received from Alcazar, and which I now transmit herewith; these tend to corroborate Mr. E. Carleton's statement on oath, to the effect that he had no weapon with him when assaulted. I also transmit copy of a letter from Messrs. J. Fereres and H. Engerer of the 28th ultimo, informing me that Kaïd-el-Khalkhali had refused to punish the Moors who assaulted Mr. E. Carleton.

I have, &c.
(Signed) LEWIS FORDE.

Inclosure 2 in No. 52.

Affidavit of Edmund P. Carleton.

I, EDMUND P. CARLETON, of Alcazar, Morocco, do hereby make oath, and declare that on Monday, the 22nd day of February, 1897, at about 11·30 A.M., I started from Alcazar with the intention of journeying to Laraiche; that when near Kaïd-el-Khalkhali's house in the small square, named Djemma Sweeka, I was surprised to see my certified agent, Emsahel-el-Ducali, lying on the ground, and a number of soldiers, whom I recognized as being in the service of Kaïd Khalkhali, brutually thrashing him; that among the said soldiers were two who are relatives of the Kaïd; that I shouted to them to desist, which they did; that I then took my agent to Kaïd Khalkhali's house, and demanded an audience, which was granted, the Kaïd receiving me in the entrance passage (Setwan); that I complained to the Kaïd of the cruel manner in which my agent was treated, and requested him to do justice; that the Kaïd asked my agent if he had any witnesses of the affair, and these were at once presented; that I then proposed to the Kaïd that two Adools should be present to hear and take note of the evidence of the witnesses, because my agent declared that some things had been taken from him, but to this the Kaïd objected; that I thereupon told one of the Kaïd's soldiers, named Emhamed, to bring the Adools, but he refused to do so—his refusal being evidently the result of a sign from the Kaïd which I surprised; that I then said I would go and bring the Adools myself; that while about to leave the house for this purpose the soldier who was standing at the door, and who was the above-named Emhamed, pushed me back; that I then forced my way out, pushing the soldier aside, whereupon he assaulted me, dagger in hand, and tried his best to stab me on the left side of my body, but only succeeded in inflicting a slight wound or scratch, although the dagger penetrated my

clothes; that I then in self-defence, and to save my life, struck the said soldier under the chin with my closed fist and knocked him down, not having a weapon of any description with me; that while trying to clear a way out, I received a severe blow on the head with some hard article which caused a contusion; that I then, with the help of some friendly Moors, managed to mount my horse; that while riding away I was hooted and pelted with stones—several of which struck me, one of them severely hurting me above the kidneys; that I also heard the Kaïd's people cursing me and the nation to which I belong in the coarsest manner possible, and in the presence of crowds of people; that owing to my injuries I was confined to bed until this morning, the 26th instant, when with much difficulty, and suffering considerable pain, I managed to get under way for Laraiche, where I arrived after having been eight hours on the journey, which under ordinary circumstances I perform in four hours; and that Kaïd Khalkhali's soldiers had no right to interfere with my agent, Emsahel Ducali, seeing that the latter is under the jurisdiction of the Governor of Laraiche and Alcazar, Kaïd Abdelmalek.

(Signed) E. P. CARLETON.

Sworn at the British Vice-Consulate at Laraiche, this 26th day of February, 1897.

(Signed) LEWIS FORDE,

(L.S.) *British Vice-Consul.*

I certify the foregoing to be a true and correct copy of the original affidavit, registered in the Acts of this Vice-Consulate and copied therefrom.

(Signed) LEWIS FORDE, *Vice-Consul.*

British Vice-Consulate, Laraiche,
February 27, 1897.

Inclosure 3 in No. 52.

Sir A. Nicolson to Cid Hamed-ben-Moussa.

(After compliments.) *Tangier, March* 2, 1897.

IT is with much regret that I have to report to your Excellency a very serious assault committed on the person of a British subject, Mr. E. Carleton, by the soldiers of Kaïd-el-Khalkhali on the 22nd of last month. The facts of the case are as follows: Mr. Carleton was leaving Alcazar for Laraiche when he saw one of his agents being unmercifully beaten on the ground by some soldiers of the above Kaïd. He called on the latter to desist, which they did. Mr. Carleton then went to the house of El Khalkhali with the agent, and complained of this grave ill-treatment. The Kaïd asked that witnesses should be produced, and these were immediately forthcoming. Mr. Carleton then suggested that two Adools should be sent for to take down the witnesses' statements, but the Kaïd objected, and even seemed disinclined to allow his soldiers to fetch them. Mr. Carleton then said that he would bring the Adools himself, and was leaving the Kaïd's house for this purpose, when he was obstructed by a soldier, named Emhamed; Mr. Carleton pushed this soldier aside, on which the latter drew a dagger, and made a thrust with it at Mr. Carleton's side. Fortunately, the latter was able to turn aside, and the dagger tore his clothes and inflicted merely a slight wound. Mr. Carleton, in order to save his life, knocked the soldier down with his fist, and made his way out of the house. On doing this he was struck from behind on the head with some hard instrument, but he succeeded in mounting his horse outside, when he was hooted and pelted with stones, several of which struck him, one severely hurting him above the kidneys. He also heard the Kaïd's people cursing him and the nation to which he belongs, in presence of crowds of spectators, and in the coarsest possible manner. Mr. Carleton was confined to bed in Alcazar four days by his injuries, and then made his way, with difficulty and pain, to Laraiche.

All the above is set forth in a sworn statement of Mr. Carleton, a translation of which, together with other numerous corroboratory evidence, I beg leave to inclose to your Excellency. I also transmit copy of a letter written by Kaïd-el-Khalkhali to the British Vice-Consul at Laraiche, giving his version of the affair, and which is in direct contradiction of the true state of the case. I may draw your Excellency's attention to the documents proving that Mr. Carleton had no weapons with him, and that Kaïd Khalkhali made efforts after the incident to have the matter hushed up and arranged.

Now I need not point out to your Excellency the extreme gravity of this case, a British subject wantonly assaulted by soldiers of a Kaïd in the very presence of the

latter. It is a case which merits the severest punishment of the Kaïd and of his soldiers who took part in the assault, and the immediate arrest of the latter, especially of Emhamed, who should be sent to Tangier for imprisonment and identification. I am sure that your Excellency will without loss of time take such steps as will prove that the Moorish Government intend to punish such acts with great severity. I would prefer in the first place to hear what your Excellency proposes to inflict, and I have confident hopes that it will be of a nature which will enable me to show my Government, when reporting to them this most regrettable incident, that His Majesty, whom God preserve, and your Excellency are determined to visit with severe penalties those of their officials who so wantonly assault peaceable and unoffending British subjects. I trust that I shall receive a speedy reply, which will satisfy me that justice will be done, and reparation made in every possible way to Mr. Carleton, and may you rest in peace and prosperity.

(Signed) A. NICOLSON.

No. 53.

The Marquess of Salisbury to Sir H. Drummond Wolff.

(No. 18.)

(Telegraphic.) P. *Foreign Office, March* 11, 1897, 6·20 P.M.

WITH reference to your telegram No. 36 of to-day.

Full information as to the views of Her Majesty's Government respecting the Globe Venture Syndicate has been sent to you in my despatch No. 30 of 5th February, and my telegram No. 3 of the 11th of that month.

If you are questioned on the subject, you are authorized to say that Her Majesty's Government will not give support to any proceedings which may contravene the authority of the Sultan, but I should prefer you not broaching the matter yourself.

No. 54.

The Marquess of Salisbury to Sir A. Nicolson.

(No. 22.)

Sir, *Foreign Office, March* 12, 1897.

I HAVE received your despatch No. 27 of the 26th ultimo, reporting an assault committed by soldiers at Alcazar on Mr. E. Carleton, a British subject, and I approve of your having instructed Mr. Madden, the Clerk to the Legation, to proceed to that place and inquire into the matter.

I am, &c.

(Signed) SALISBURY.

No. 55.

Messrs. Dehn and Heine to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(Received March 13.)

My Lord Marquess, 47, *Newton Street, Manchester, March* 12, 1897.

REFERRING to your Lordship's letter to us of the 3rd December last, relating to the claims on the Moorish Government on account of the disturbances in the Mzab district, we beg to point out to your Lordship that more than three months has now elapsed since the letter was written by Sir Arthur Nicolson, which expressed the opinion that it would be well to afford the Moorish Government a reasonable time for examining into the matter.

We have, during the course of last month, been refused payment of acceptances given by the debtor Mohammed-el-Hartzi-el-Slani, under the excuse that he could not meet his acceptances until the Moorish Government had settled the Mzab claims; the debtor added that he was by no means refusing to pay the debt for which he had given us some property as security, and that he was advised that we could not sell this property as long as he had not actually refused to pay.

It becomes, therefore, a very serious matter if the delay granted to the Moorish Government is extended further, and we would ask your Lordship to urge upon the

Moorish Government the immediate settlement of the claims in such a manner that such portions of the claims payable to our debtors—Mohammed-el-Hartzi-el-Slani, Mohammed Tassi, and Dres Kotoni—as would be required to cover our claims, should be handed over to Her Majesty's Representative at Tangier for transmission to us.

We are, &c.

(Signed) B. A. DEHN AND HEINE.

No. 56.

The Marquess of Salisbury to Sir A. Nicolson.

(No. 24.)

Sir, *Foreign Office, March* 13, 1897.

I HAVE received your despatch No. 29 of the 27th ultimo, forwarding a copy of a despatch from the British Vice-Consul at Fez, in which he incloses correspondence with the Acting Governor of that place relating to the payment of guards which the authorities are desirous to place at night at the British Vice-Consulate.

I concur in your proposal to approve the reply which Mr. Vice-Consul Macleod has returned to the Moorish authorities on this subject.

I am, &c.

(Signed) SALISBURY.

No. 57.

The Marquess of Salisbury to Sir A. Nicolson.

(No. 25.)

Sir, *Foreign Office, March* 13, 1897.

I HAVE received your despatch No. 25 of the 24th ultimo, and I approve the communication which you made to the Basha of Tangier relative to the two Riffians, now in his custody, who are supposed to have participated in the piratical attack on the British vessel "Virgen de los Angeles."

I am, &c.

(Signed) SALISBURY.

No. 58.

The Marquess of Salisbury to Sir A. Nicolson.

(No. 26.)

Sir, *Foreign Office, March* 13, 1897.

I HAVE received your despatch No. 30 of the 2nd instant, forwarding further correspondence relating to the assault committed on Mr. E. Carleton at Alcazar, and I approve the note which you have addressed to the Grand Vizier on this subject.

I am, &c.

(Signed) SALISBURY.

No. 59.

The London Chamber of Commerce to Foreign Office.—(Received March 15.)

Sir, *Botolph House, Eastcheap, London, March* 13, 1897.

MEMBERS of this Chamber, who are interested in trade with Morocco, are desirous of appointing a semsar in the port of Mazagan, but they have been informed by Her Majesty's Consul at Tangier that, as they have already two semsars in Morocco, they are debarred from making any additional appointments. They state that their present semsars are resident at Tetuan and Rabat, and they point out that it could scarcely be expected that a gentleman in Tetuan or Rabat could protect interests in, for instance, Mazagan or Mogador. They further state that many firms, to their knowledge, have two semsars at each port, and that one foreign firm has at least twenty semsars or agents along the Morocco coast.

I am now to inquire whether it is a fact that a British house is not entitled to more than two semsars in the whole territory of Morocco. In any event, I am to express the hope that it may be possible to supply the Chamber with the text of any Treaty provisions bearing upon this matter.

I am, &c.

(Signed) KENRIC B. MURRAY,

Secretary.

No. 60.

Memorandum by Mr. Oakes.

ARTICLE IV of the Commercial Convention between Great Britain and Morocco of the 9th December, 1856, says: "The subjects of Her Britannic Majesty within the dominions of His Majesty the Sultan shall be free to manage their own affairs themselves, or to commit those affairs to the management of any persons whom they may appoint as their broker, factor, or agent; nor shall such British subjects be restrained in their choice of persons to act in such capacities; nor shall they be called upon to pay any salary or remuneration to any person whom they shall not choose to employ; but those persons who shall be thus employed, and who are subjects of the Sultan of Morocco, shall be treated and regarded as other subjects of the Moorish dominions." (Hertslet's Treaties, vol. x, p. 916.)

The term "semsar" is not employed, but it appears to be equivalent to "agent" or "broker."

The Convention, as well as the General Treaty of the same date, confers comprehensive "most favoured nation" treatment on British subjects.

On the 19th August, 1863, an Agreement between France and Morocco regarding *protection* to be exercised by French Agents in Morocco was signed at Tangier. (State Papers, vol. lxvi, p. 734.)

After stating that protection should be accorded to the individual only whilst in actual employment, &c., the Agreement went on to say that protection should be divided into two classes: 1. Natives in the service of the Minister and Consuls (clerks, servants, soldiers, &c.). 2. The *brokers* employed by French merchants in their mercantile transactions. It continues thus: "The last-mentioned merchants shall not be considered merchants unless they do business on a large scale in both exports and imports at a port, whether on their own account or on that of others."

"The number of brokers enjoying protection *shall not exceed two* in each commercial house; and *should a merchant have another house at another port* he shall be entitled to *two protected brokers at each of the ports where he may be established* in business."

In sending home this Agreement in 1880, Sir J. D. Hay alluded to the brokers therein dealt with as "the semsars or agents selected by French merchants."

Sir J. D. Hay made attempts, in 1877 and subsequently, to substitute the practice under Article IV of the British Convention for that under the French Agreement of 1863, but some of the foreign Representatives in Morocco opposed the idea, and it fell through (see Confidential Paper 5599, p. 39–44). The question was further considered in the commercial negotiations of 1887, &c., which did not, however, result in any agreement.

In 1880 a Convention was signed at Madrid between the principal European Powers, the United States and Morocco, for the settlement of the right of protection in Morocco. (Hertslet's Treaties, vol. xv, p. 247.) Article X says: "Il n'est rien changé à la situation des censaux telle qu'elle a été établie par les Traités et par la Convention de 1863" (that is to say, the French Agreement of 19th August), "sauf ce qui est stipulé, relativement aux impôts, dans les articles suivants." (They must pay the agricultural tax, &c.)

Subsequently, in 1883, Sir J. D. Hay, in discussing the working of the Madrid Convention (which he said had become a dead letter), stated that he had put a question to the Moorish Prime Minister regarding the appointment of protected semsars or agents by merchants *residing in foreign countries* who did business with Morocco. The Minister replied that he could not acknowledge such agents, as being contrary to the terms of the Convention. "I put this question," said Sir J. D. Hay, "as it had come to my knowledge that the French Minister had issued a ticket of protection to the native agent of a merchant resident in France, and that French citizens at Tangier not doing a business *en gros* were allowed protected semsars. . . . . Several merchants

at Manchester and other towns, doing business with Morocco, have requested me to obtain permission to appoint protected agents, which, on the principle of the subjects of all Powers being placed on an equal footing, I cannot now refuse, though I have hitherto done so. The merchants of other Powers have claimed, and will claim, similar rights." (Confidential Paper 4900, p. 18.)

It will thus be observed (1) that although the British Treaty allows "the subjects of Her Majesty *within the dominions of the Sultan*" to engage "native agents who shall be treated and regarded as other subjects of the Moorish dominions," it does not profess to grant the privilege to British subjects beyond those dominions; (2) that in practice, and on the principle of most-favoured-nation treatment, the system of *protected* semsars as agreed upon in the French arrangement of 1863, and ratified by the Madrid Convention, is followed in respect of foreign merchants in Morocco; (3) that abuses of protection, unauthorized by Treaty but followed on the same principle, have again become the rule in Morocco. The correspondence which is not inclosed in the Chamber of Commerce letter, and is only reported at second-hand, might possibly throw some further light on the actual position of affairs; but it would seem desirable, before deciding to support the case of the Chamber of Commerce, or to reply definitely to their inquiry, to call for a full report from Her Majesty's Minister at Tangier on the present position of the question.

In the meantime, if thought fit, the Chamber might be furnished with a copy of the British Convention of 1856, the French Agreement of 1863, and the papers presented to Parliament on the subject of the Madrid Convention of 1880.

Copies are sent herewith.

(Signed) A. H. OAKES.

Foreign Office, March 16, 1897.

Yes. T. H. S.

No. 60*.

Sir A. Nicolson to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(*Received March* 16.)

(No. 5.)
(Telegraphic.) P. *Tangier, March* 16, 1897.

GLOBE Venture Syndicate.

Telegram from Ambassador at Madrid of yesterday's date.

I am inclined to doubt the correctness of the news given first in a Tangier Spanish journal respecting the sending of Moorish troops.

The Company will get itself into serious trouble if they push their enterprise without the consent of the Sultan, and I am of opinion that under present conditions there is small probability of obtaining that consent.

No. 61.

Sir A. Nicolson to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(*Received March* 20.)

(No. 6.)
(Telegraphic.) P. *Tangier, March* 20, 1897.

I HAVE had a visit from the agent of the Globe Venture Syndicate. He has Abdul Kerim Bey with him, and I gave him some information as to this person's antecedents and character. Agent says he intends to proceed to the Moorish Court, when he will try to secure Sultan's authorization for Company's enterprise. He is anxious to carry out his mission, although I told him that, in my opinion, it would not bring about any result whatever.

No. 62.

The Marquess of Salisbury to Sir A. Nicolson.

(No. 28.)
Sir, *Foreign Office, March* 20, 1897.

WITH reference to your despatch No. 132, of the 19th November last, I transmit to you the accompanying copy of a letter from Messrs. Dehn and Heine, in regard to their claims against the Moorish Government on account of disturbances in the M'zab district.*

I have to request that you will furnish me with a Report as to what progress is being made in the matter.

I am, &c.
(Signed) SALISBURY.

No. 63.

Foreign Office to Messrs. Dehn and Heine.

Gentlemen, *Foreign Office, March* 20, 1897.

I AM directed by the Marquess of Salisbury to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 12th instant in regard to your claims against the Moorish Government on account of disturbances in the M'zab district.

I am to inform you, in reply, that Her Majesty's Minister at Tangier will be instructed to report what progress is being made in the matter.

I am, &c.
(Signed) T. H. SANDERSON.

No. 64.

Mr. F. L. J. Bowden to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(*Received March* 23.)

My Lord, *Westbury, Tasmania, February* 8, 1897.

I BEG respectfully to acknowledge the receipt of your Lordship's letters of the 30th July and the 2nd September, 1896, in reference to my wish, expressed in my letter to your Lordship, under date the 16th July, 1896, to obtain a Concession from the Sultan of Morocco, to work the minerals in the district of Angera near Tangier in that country.

Your Lordship's letter of the latter date informed me that Her Majesty's Minister at Tangier then considered the moment an inopportune one for moving the Moorish Government to entertain a proposal of that nature.

The Minister also expressed an opinion that owing to the unsettled condition of the country the Moorish Government might be indisposed to "afford facilities to a foreigner to undertake any enterprise which might be attended with some risk to him personally." And he suggested that it would be wiser to defer any such application for the present.

As, therefore, uncertain delay would probably occur, I have temporarily returned to Tasmania, with a view to close my connection with that Colony, and take up my residence in Tangier, and there await the course of events.

Your Lordship will, I trust, pardon the digression in further referring to the Minister's letter in reference to "personal risk." In so doing I desire to be explanatory only, for your Lordship's consideration at a future period, when the matter may again be under your Lordship's consideration.

Any such risk in the district of Angera is, I am persuaded, most improbable.

Sir A. Nicolson has resided in Tangier only since 1895, and cannot have had many opportunities of becoming personally acquainted with the characteristics of the class of Moors resident in the small agricultural District of Angera, where my experience was gained by actual residence amongst them in uninterrupted daily communication for a not inconsiderable period. I, therefore, assume that the Minister has based his opinion on information supplied him by others, who cannot possibly have had similar experience to myself. During my residence there I did not, neither did Sir J. Hay, consider it necessary, that I should be accompanied by a Government soldier. I simply utilized two

* No. 55.

of the men who worked at the mines as servants on the road. I always met with the utmost courtesy, kindness, and hospitality from the natives, and indeed have myself, unaccompanied by anyone, done the entire journey from the mines to Tangier (a long day's ride) stopping at any village on the road for water or milk (freely given). My opinion of risk, your Lordship will therefore see, is entirely opposed to that expressed by the Minister. Indeed, in the last diplomatic Report (1895) submitted to your Lordship, at p. 15, under the head of "General Retrospect," it states that, with the exception of two provinces (therein named) "there have been scarcely any highway robberies reported nor any cases of a mail courier robbery occurring in that vicinity."

Should the Minister at Tangier make any further communication to your Lordship on the subject, I have the honour to request that you will be pleased to direct that its tenour be communicated to me at the above address.

(Signed) FRED. L. J. BOWDEN.

No. 65

Sir A. Nicolson to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(Received March 23.)

(No. 31.)

My Lord, *Tangier, March 5, 1897.*

WITH reference to my despatch No. 30 of the 2nd March, I have the honour to report that Mr. Madden returned yesterday from Alcazar, having passed two days there inquiring into the assault on Mr. Carleton. The evidence which he obtained added little to what I have received from Mr. Vice-Consul Forde, but corroborated in all details the testimony which has been already transmitted to this Legation.

Mr. Madden saw the Deputy-Governor of the town, and requested him, as a preliminary step, to arrest the soldiers who assaulted Mr. Carleton, and who beat the agent of the latter.

The Deputy-Governor expressed his inability to do so as they were men of Kaid Khalkhali, over whom he said he had no jurisdiction, although the offences were committed within the town.

Mr. Madden then saw Kaid Khalkhali, to whom he made the same request; but the latter behaved with great rudeness and positively declined to take any steps in the direction suggested.

I have addressed a further note to the Grand Vizier, of which I beg leave to inclose a copy; and will now await a reply from his Excellency before taking any further steps.

I have, &c.

(Signed) A. NICOLSON.

Inclosure in No. 65.

Sir A. Nicolson to Cid Hamed-ben-Moussa.

(After compliments.) *Tangier, March 5, 1897.*

I HAVE written to you, O friend, already as to the serious assault committed on the British subject, Mr. Carleton, by soldiers of Kaid-el-Khalkhali, and in the presence of the latter; and I only wish now to add that I sent Mr. Madden of this Legation to Alcazar to make inquiries into the case.

Mr. Madden saw and examined many persons there, and their evidence entirely corroborated what I have already sent you. Mr. Madden requested the Khalifa to arrest the two soldiers who assaulted Mr. Carleton and who beat the agent of the latter, but the Khalifa said he was unable to do so as they were the men of Kaid-el-Khalkhali. Mr. Madden then went to see the latter and made the same request, but the Kaid treated Mr. Madden with great incivility and flatly declined to take any steps for the arrest. In short, his behaviour was an additional aggravation of the gross misconduct of which he had already been guilty. Mr. Madden was furnished with a letter from Cid Mohamed Torres and also acquainted both the Khalifa and the Kaid-el-Khalkhali that he had been specially sent by me to inquire into the case.

I leave your Excellency to judge of the conduct of Kaid-el-Khalkhali and I shall anxiously await a reply from your Excellency as to the redress which the Moorish Government propose to make for the very grave misconduct of a Government official and the most serious assault of a peaceable British subject. Peace.

(Signed) A. NICOLSON.

No. 66.

Sir A. Nicolson to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(Received March 24.)

(No. 7.)

(Telegraphic.) P. *Tangier, March 24, 1897.*

GLOBE Venture Syndicate: my telegram No. 4.

I have received a letter from the Grand Vizier stating that any persons engaged in landing merchandize in the district of Sûs will be arrested and delivered up to the British Consul at Mogador, the merchandize being seized as contraband.

The agent of the Syndicate has reiterated his engagement that the Company will undertake no operations whatever in Sûs without previous consent of the Moorish Government.

I shall inform Vizier accordingly, and will let his Excellency know that the agent proposes to visit the Court in order to explain affairs.

No. 67.

Foreign Office to London Chamber of Commerce.

Sir, *Foreign Office, March 26, 1897.*

I AM directed by the Marquess of Salisbury to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 13th instant, stating that certain members of the London Chamber of Commerce, who are interested in trade with Morocco, are desirous of appointing a Semsar in the port of Mazagan, but that they have been informed by Her Majesty's Consul at Tangier that, as they have already two Semsars in Morocco, they are debarred from making any additional appointments.

In accordance with the request of the Chamber to be supplied with the text of any Treaty provisions bearing upon the matter, I am to forward to you the accompanying copy of the Commercial Convention of the 9th December, 1856, between Great Britain and Morocco, together with a copy of the Papers presented to Parliament in the years 1880 and 1881 on the subject of the Madrid Convention of 1880. The Franco-Moorish Agreement of the 19th August, 1863, regarding brokers employed by French merchants in Morocco, which is referred to in the Madrid Convention, will be found on p. 83 of the inclosed Blue Book.

In answer to your inquiry whether it is a fact that a British mercantile house is not entitled to more than two Semsars in the whole territory of Morocco, I am to observe, for the information of the Chamber, that Article IV of the Convention of 1856 stipulates as follows:—

"The subjects of Her Britannic Majesty, within the dominions of His Majesty the Sultan, shall be free to manage their own affairs themselves, or to commit those affairs to the management of any persons whom they may appoint as their broker, factor, or agent; nor shall such British subjects be restrained in their choice of persons to act in such capacities; nor shall they be called upon to pay any salary or remuneration to any person whom they shall not choose to employ; but those persons who shall be thus employed, and who are subjects of the Sultan of Morocco, shall be treated and regarded as other subjects of the Moorish dominions."

The French Agreement of 1863, regarding the protection to be exercised by French Agents in Morocco, after stating that such protection should be accorded to the individual only whilst in actual employment, &c., goes on to say that protection shall be divided into two classes:—

1. Natives in the service of the Minister and Consuls (*i.e.*, clerks, servants, soldiers, &c.; and

2. The brokers employed by French merchants in their mercantile transactions.

The Agreement continues thus:—

"The last-mentioned merchants shall not be considered merchants unless they do business on a large scale in both exports and imports at a port, whether on their own account or on that of others. The number of brokers enjoying protection shall not exceed two in each commercial house; and should a merchant have another house at another port, he shall be entitled to two protected brokers at each of the ports where he may be established in business."

Article X of the Convention signed at Madrid on the 3rd July, 1880, between the

principal European Powers, the United States of America and Morocco, for the settlement of the right of protection in Morocco, says:—

"Il n'est rien changé à la situation des censaux telle qu'elle a été établie par les Traités et par la Convention de 1863 [*i.e.*, the French Agreement of the 19th August] sauf ce qui est stipulé relativement aux impôts dans les Articles suivants." (They must pay the agricultural tax, &c.)

It will thus be seen that, although the British Treaty allows "the subjects of Her Majesty within the dominions of the Sultan" to engage native agents "who shall be treated and regarded as other subjects of the Moorish dominions," it does not profess to grant the privilege to British subjects beyond those dominions. In practice, however, the system of protected Semsars, as agreed upon in the French Arrangement of 1863, and ratified by the Madrid Convention of 1880, appears to be the one now followed in respect of foreign merchants in Morocco.

The correspondence which has passed between the Members of the Chamber, who are concerned in this matter, and Her Majesty's Consul at Tangier might perhaps throw some further light on the actual position of the question; but, in the absence of more complete information, Her Majesty's Minister in Morocco will be instructed to furnish Lord Salisbury with a full Report upon the subject.

I am, &c.
(Signed) T. H. SANDERSON.

No. 68.

The Marquess of Salisbury to Sir A. Nicolson.

(No. 30.)
Sir, *Foreign Office, March* 26, 1897.

THE substance of your despatch No. 98 of the 14th August last relating to Mr. F. L. J. Bowden's wish to obtain a Concession for working minerals in the district of Angera, was communicated to that gentleman, and I now transmit, for your information, a copy of a reply which has been received from him.*

I am, &c.
(Signed) SALISBURY.

No. 69.

The Marquess of Salisbury to Sir A. Nicolson.

(No. 31.)
Sir, *Foreign Office, March* 26, 1897.

I HAVE received your despatch No. 31 of the 5th instant, stating that Mr. Madden had returned from Alcazar, and had reported the result of the inquiries which he had made into the assault committed on Mr. Carleton by the soldiers of Kaid Khalkhali.

I approve the further note which you have addressed to the Grand Vizier on this subject.

I am, &c.
(Signed) SALISBURY.

No. 70.

The Marquess of Salisbury to Sir A. Nicolson.

(No. 32.)
Sir, *Foreign Office, March* 26, 1897.

I TRANSMIT to you the accompanying copies of correspondence which has passed between this Department and the London Chamber of Commerce in regard to the wish of certain members of that body to appoint a third Semsar in the Moorish dominions.†

It appears that Her Majesty's Consul at Tangier has already informed them that the fact of their having two Semsars in Morocco debars them from making any additional

* No. 64. † Nos. 59 and 67.

similar appointment, but as copies of the correspondence to which reference is thus made did not accompany the letter from the Chamber, it would seem to be desirable, before coming to any decision in the matter, or replying definitely to their inquiries, to obtain an opinion from you on the subject.

I therefore request that you will be so good as to furnish me with a full report on the general question, as well as on the particular point raised by the London Chamber of Commerce.

I at the same time transmit to you herewith, for your own information, a copy of a Memorandum on the subject which has been drawn up by the Librarian of this Office.*

I am, &c.
(Signed) SALISBURY.

No. 71.

Foreign Office to Mr. F. L. J. Bowden.

Sir, *Foreign Office, March* 26, 1897.

I AM directed by the Marquess of Salisbury to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 8th ultimo, and to say that a copy of it will be forwarded to Her Majesty's Minister at Tangier.

I am, &c.
(Signed) T. H. SANDERSON.

No. 72.

Sir A. Nicolson to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(*Received March* 29.)

(No. 34.)
My Lord, *Tangier, March* 16, 1897.

SIR H. DRUMMOND-WOLFF was good enough to repeat to me the telegram which he sent to your Lordship in regard to the measures reported to have been taken by the Moorish Government to prevent any landing by agents of the Globe Venture Syndicate in the Sûs district. I had seen in "La Cronica," a Tangier paper, also a report to the effect that some 3,000 Moorish troops had been dispatched to the Wad Nûn, but I have not received any confirmation of this rumour, and I doubt whether such steps have been taken. I will make further inquiries on the subject.

I heard privately from the Court within the last few days that the Grand Vizier had been inquiring whether I had received any fresh information as to the projects of the Syndicate, and that he had expressed his intention of writing to me again on the question. The Moorish Government are doubtless watchful and suspicious. I would not go so far as to say that, even if the Syndicate had approached the Sultan in the first instance, His Majesty would have granted any concessions of the nature advertised in their prospectus, but I feel fairly confident that any request that would now be tardily made for His Majesty's sanction would be refused.

Should the Company endeavour to undertake the enterprise in face of the protests of the Moorish Government, and without sanction, they would find very serious difficulties in their path, and the consequences would, in my opinion, be most injurious to their projects. It would be a matter of regret if the Company were under any misapprehension on this point.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. NICOLSON.

No. 73.

Sir A. Nicolson to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(*Received March* 29.)

(No. 35.)
My Lord, *Tangier, March* 19, 1897.

FROM information which I have just received privately from the Court, it would appear that some of the Moorish troops have suffered a reverse in the Sûs district. It seems that two or three regiments were recently sent to the Sûs to take the place of

* No. 60.

others which had been stationed there and which were to be recalled. On the march, the relieving regiments were surrounded and attacked by seven tribes of Sûs, in the district of Chtouka. Most of the men succeeded in escaping after having been severely handled, but left two Colonels and some of their comrades as prisoners. The Basha of Mequinez, who is in command of the Sultan's expedition in Sûs, reports that he has sent a party to punish the tribes. The Government are sending at once reinforcements to Sûs with some light guns, and orders have also been dispatched to the Basha of Mequinez to give the tribes a severe lesson. It is said that the regiments who were attacked were badly armed and very ill supplied with ammunition.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. NICOLSON.

No. 74.

Sir A. Nicolson to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(*Received March* 29.)

(No. 36.)
My Lord, *Tangier, March* 20, 1897.

MAJOR SPILSBURY, the agent of the Globe Venture Syndicate, called on me to-day, and explained to me that he was desirous of proceeding to the Court at Morocco City to ascertain the dispositions of the Moorish Government towards the projected undertaking of the Company in the Sûs district.

I told Major Spilsbury that I feared he would not find the Government well disposed towards the scheme. The Grand Vizier is, I fear, opposed to opening any new outlets for trade, and is also annoyed at the Company having published their prospectus and invited subscriptions before the Sultan, who, he maintains, is Sovereign of the Sûs district, had been consulted.

I told Major Spilsbury that I considered the moment most unpropitious for approaching the Sultan, and that I was fairly convinced that his mission would meet with no success.

Major Spilsbury said that in the interests of his Company he was bound to make an attempt, and if it failed he would but have to return home and report. I recommended Major Spilsbury, if he were determined to go to the Court, to travel in as unostentatious and quiet a manner as possible; and I also told him that in the most favourable circumstances the Company would be unable to obtain a monopoly, and that he must expect to meet with considerable opposition from others than the Moorish Government. I read to him the substance of the Vizier's letter to me, of which I inclosed a copy to your Lordship in my despatch No. 5 of the 12th January, and I pointed out to him that it was both a protest and a warning.

In reply to a question, he told me Abdul Kerim Bey was with him; that it was he who obtained the charter, and that he thought he had acted in a perfectly straightforward manner towards the Syndicate. I told Major Spilsbury, privately, that it would be wise not to place too much confidence in Abdul Kerim Bey; and I gave him a slight sketch of the antecedents of that individual. I thought, further, that it would be more prudent, if he proceeded to Court, not to take Abdul Kerim Bey with him, as the latter was, I believed, not well viewed by the Moorish Government.

I considered it advisable to speak to Major Spilsbury quite frankly, as I wished him to understand clearly how matters stood, and that his reception by the Grand Vizier, if, indeed, his Excellency receives him at all, would probably not be encouraging after what had passed. Major Spilsbury regretted that so much publicity had been given to the projects of the Company; and I told him that the proceedings of the Company were, I knew, being carefully watched by some Legations, two of whom had Agents at the Court.

The French Minister asked me this morning if there was any news of the Syndicate, and as the fact of the arrival of Major Spilsbury and Abdul Kerim Bey is known all over the town, I told him that the agent had come to Tangier, and that he was to have an interview with me.

I may add that Major Spilsbury mentioned to me that the Company had promised not to endeavour to penetrate into the Sûs district without the permission of the Sultan.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. NICOLSON.

No. 75.

Sir E. Monson to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(*Received March* 31.)

(No. 89.)
My Lord, *Paris, March* 29, 1897.

I HAVE the honour to inclose an article published in to-day's "Temps," reporting an agitation which has recently broken out in the district of Oujda, in the immediate vicinity of the Algerian frontier.

The French Commanding Officer at Lalla-Maghnia, who had at his disposal 2,000 irregulars to guard the frontier, has been authorized to strengthen this force by two squadrons of Spahis.

The revolt appears to have been caused by the efforts of the Governor of Oujda to exact payment of taxes from various mountain tribes along the frontier. On the 1st instant, Oujda was besieged by the rebels, and the Governor appears to have been forced to accept their terms, and abandon his scheme of taxation; on which the tribes returned to the hills.

I have, &c.
(In the absence of the Ambassador),
(Signed) MARTIN GOSSELIN.

No. 76.

The Marquess of Salisbury to Sir A. Nicolson.

(No. 34.)
Sir, *Foreign Office, March* 31, 1897.

I HAVE received your despatch No. 36 of the 20th instant, reporting an interview which you had on that date with Major Spillsbury, the agent of the Globe Venture Syndicate.

I approve the language held by you on that occasion.

I am, &c.
(Signed) SALISBURY.

No. 77.

Sir A. Nicolson to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(*Received April* 3.)

(No. 37.)
My Lord, *Tangier, March* 24, 1897.

WITH reference to my despatch No. 36 of the 20th instant, I have the honour to transmit translation of a letter which I have received from the Grand Vizier, further protesting against the alleged projected proceedings of the Globe Venture Syndicate, and announcing that any merchandize which was landed in the Sûs district would be seized as contraband, and the persons arrested who were employed in such disembarkation.

As Major Spilsbury, the agent of the Syndicate, is still here, I communicated the purport of the note of the Vizier to him; and I said that I should reply to his Excellency to the effect that I had informed the agent of the Company of what had been conveyed to me, and that the agent had engaged not to undertake any operations in the Sûs, or to enter the Sûs district, without the permission of the Moorish Government. I said that I would add that the agent, in company with Abd-ul-Kerim Bey, contemplated proceeding to Court to explain matters to the Vizier. Major Spilsbury expressed his concurrence with the statement.

I thought it advisable to point out once more to Major Spilsbury that the concession of a trading monopoly in the Moorish dominions was out of the question, as by Treaty every nation would have a right to the same commercial privileges as might be conceded to the subjects of any other nation. In fact, so far as I understood the matter, the object of the Syndicate was now limited to obtaining from the Sultan the opening of a new commercial port on the Wad Nun. Major Spilsbury replied that such was the case

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. NICOLSON.

Inclosure in No. 77.

Cid Hamed-ben-Moussa to Sir A. Nicolson.

(After compliments.) 18 *Ramadan*, 1314 (*February* 20, 1897).

WE had prevously written you, oh friend, concerning the report which had reached His Shereefian Majesty—God exalt him!—that certain English commercial Companies of London, named the "Globe Venture Syndicate," had spread a report that they had obtained permission from the Shereefian Government for traders to proceed in ships laden with merchandize for disembarking on the Sûs coast; and by Shereefian order we informed you that the report spread by the Company was without foundation, and that the Shereefian Government had never given such permission to any one; but that, on the contrary, no intelligent being could imagine the possibility of Government permission being given to traders to go and land their merchandize at a place at which there is no Government Custom-house, nor any security for the lives or effects of those who go there; and requesting you to write to your friendly Government in a manner that would result in it stopping these traders from risking their lives and goods in the abysses of peril; and giving warning to those who may imperil their lives and suffer harm or loss, that the responsibility rests with themselves, and no responsibility attaches to the Government; and you replied to this, oh friend, that you had brought this to the knowledge of your friendly Government.

After having written of the above, the Government—God exalt it!—has now heard that the Company, after having received this warning (or protest against it, still continues its endeavours to collect the money of traders for the purpose of loading a steamer with merchandize, &c., to be landed on the said coast, by reason of their not understanding the manner of dangers which will surely overtake them. Therefore our Lord—God exalt him!—has ordered me to again write to you, oh friend, on this matter, requesting you to again write to the Government of your sincere nation, warning this Company of what I have stated; and also, that all who imperil their lives, and land any merchandize or anything else on that coast, the Government will seize it as contraband, and will arrest those who go there with the merchandize, and deliver them to your Consul at Mogador, which is the port prepared by the Government for trade with the Sûs districts, and it is clear that landing elsewhere will injure it. And by this you will give a sign to these merchants which will prevent them from assisting those who would deceive them, by giving them money and sending it out without security, and thus nothing will happen to these traders which will cause annoyance to either side.

No. 78.

Sir A. Nicolson to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(*Received April* 3.)

(No. 39.)

My Lord, *Tangier, March* 27, 1897.

WITH reference to previous correspondence, I have the honour to report that Mr. P. Pisani called upon me the other day to inform me that he was acting as counsel for the master and crew of the British felucca "Joven Enrique," which was alleged to have been plundered in the autum of last year off the Riff coast.

Mr. Pisani said that he had obtained written statements from some of the Moors who were in the boats which attacked the felucca, and he desired to know whether this Legation would assist in obtaining compensation from the proper quarter on account of the losses sustained by the skipper and crew of the felucca.

I advised Mr. Pisani to communicate in writing to Her Majesty's Consul the information which he had received, and pointed out to him that by Article IX of the Treaty between Great Britain and Morocco the course to be pursued would be for him to prosecute the offenders before a Moorish Tribunal. It would be desirable, however, in the first place that Mr. White should have an opportunity of examining the documents.

I beg leave to transmit copies of a letter which Mr. Pisani has in consequence addressed to Mr. White, and also the depositions of the Moors.

I am communicating these documents to Mr. Vice-Consul Bewicke, and am instructing him to make inquiries into the depositions, and to furnish me with a report.

I have sent a copy of this despatch, and its inclosures, to the Governor of Gibraltar.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. NICOLSON.

Inclosure 1 in No. 78.

Mr. R. H. Pisani to Consul White.

Sir, *Hotel Colon, Tangier, March* 25, 1897.

I AM requested by Mr. Francis Gomez, master of the British felucca "Joven Enrique," Rafael Gomez, James Abullon, and Francis Gomez, junior, the crew of said felucca, and by Arthur Danino, of Gibraltar, commission agent, to refer you to this Memorial addressed by them on the 20th November, 1896, to Her Britannic Majesty's Principal Secretary of State for the Colonies, London, copy of which has been forwarded to this Consulate as they are informed and believe.

My clients now desire me to forward copies of two new declarations made before the Moorish Adul, with translation thereof in the English language, made by several of the Moors who manned the boat wherein the cargo and money were carried away from my client's felucca.

My clients now request me to submit this further evidence, and trust that you will take such steps in this matter as may seem fit, proper, and necessary, so that they may obtain the prayer asked for in their said Memorial of the 20th November, 1896.

I am also requested to inform you that the felucca is owned by M. Cerisola, of Gibraltar, and that he was owner of said felucca at that time, *i.e.*, in the month of October 1896.

Hoping to be honoured with a favourable reply, I have, &c.

(Signed) R. H. PISANI,
Counsel and Solicitor for Mr. F. Gomez and others.

Inclosure 2 in No. 78.

Declaration.

Praise be to God!

CID HAMED-BEN-EL-MALLEM HAMED-EL-BOCOYI declares against himself that he took from the English vessel "Enrique" fourteen sacks, filled with old empty cartridges and other things. That he and four men, friends of his, armed, went in Tosso's boat to the said vessel whilst it was between Negro and Ceuta, and came with what they had taken from the said vessel to Boscoya. He certifies to the truth of this, first and last, before him who questions him. His declaration is taken on the 11th day of Rajab, 1314.

Praise to God alone!

The two witnesses (notaries who draw up this document) have received from the three individuals—Captain Cid Abdullah-ben-Mahommed-el-Boscoyi, resident at Tetuan, and Cid Mahommed-ben-Abdullah Akhmaliss, at present residing at Tetuan, and Cid El Ayashi-ben-el-Arbi-ben-Hadudali-el-Boscoyi—testimony as to their knowledge of Cid Hamed-ben-el-Mallem Hamed-el-Bocoyi, a knowledge full and complete legally, and by this knowledge they testify that the said captain hired to him the boat to transport therein cargo from Ceuta to the district of the Riff. Akhamaliss acted as help to the said captain, and El Ayashi embarked with them to travel to the Riff district, and the whole of them embarked at Martin, and they journeyed in Tosso's boat until they arrived near to Borj-el-Turf, between Negro and Ceuta. Here they were met by the English vessel "Joven Enrique," and the said son of Mallem Hamed went on board the said vessel and wished to shoot the Christians who were on the said vessel with a rifle, and he took from them fourteen sacks, all filled with used empty cartridges and other things, and placed them in the boat in which they were, and they then voyaged until they reached Jibhah. They then repented of having travelled with him, and returned to Tetuan, and he parted from them there, taking with him his said cargo. This is what is within their knowledge and certitude, and their knowledge is based upon their

presence with him, and witnessing what is stated, and voyaging with the individual mentioned in the said boat.

Their testimony to this effect is noted down from questions asked them on the 11th day of Shaaban, 1314.

No. 79.

Sir A. Nicolson to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(Received April 3.)

(No. 40.)

My Lord, *Tangier, March 27, 1897.*

HADJ MEHEMED LEBADY, one of the deputies of the Sultan at Tangier, spoke to me this morning, by order of his Government, on the question of the inhabitants of the Riff district obtaining arms and ammunition at Gibraltar. His Excellency said that of late a custom had grown up of Riffians proceeding to Gibraltar and purchasing there rifles and cartridges, and he was instructed to inquire whether these proceedings could not be stopped.

I told his Excellency that I knew that the authorities at Gibraltar exercised all possible vigilance in preventing the export of and trade in the articles he mentioned; but that I would communicate with the Governor of Gibraltar on the point he had raised, though I should have wished to have been furnished with some more details. I asked Hadj Mehemed Lebady why the Moorish authorities did not confiscate the contraband goods on the return of the Riffians to Moorish territory. He said that they landed at Alhucemas, a Spanish possession, and that the Moorish Government had approached that of Spain with a view of instructions being sent to the authorities at Alhucemas to prevent the importation of arms and ammunition, and that they were still awaiting a reply to their representations.

I presume that the authority of the Moorish Government is not sufficiently established in the territory round Alhucemas to permit of any control being exercised in those districts.

I have, &c.

(Signed) A. NICOLSON.

No. 80.

Sir A. Nicolson to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(Received April 5.)

(No. 8.)

(Telegraphic.) P. *Tangier, April 5, 1897.*

MY despatch No. 14 of the 29th January: Shereef of Tamsloht.

I have been informed officially by the Sultan's deputy here that Maulai-el-Hadj has been deprived of his position as Guardian of the Sanctuary, the tenure of such a post being said to be impossible for any one under foreign protection. This measure is a serious one and is opposed to the advice I have always tendered, and which I had imagined had been accepted by the Vizier. I have written to his Excellency, informing him that it is my intention to report the matter to your Lordship, and that, in the meanwhile, he is to be held responsible for any measures in which the Shereef's person or interests are involved. The above steps have possibly not yet been carried into effect, as no direct information from Court has reached me.

No. 81.

Foreign Office to Colonial Office.

Sir, *Foreign Office, April 7, 1897.*

I AM directed by the Marquess of Salisbury to transmit to you a copy of a despatch from Her Majesty's Minister at Tangier,* reporting a representation which had been made to him on the part of the Moorish Government with regard to the

* No. 79.

practice said to have grown up among the Riff tribes of importing rifles and cartridges from Gibraltar through the Spanish possession of Alhucemas.

I am to request that Lord Salisbury may be favoured with any observations which Mr. Secretary Chamberlain may have to offer on the subject.

I am, &c.

(Signed) T. H. SANDERSON.

No. 82.

Sir A. Nicolson to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(Received April 8.)

(No. 41. Confidential.)

My Lord, *Tangier, April 1, 1897.*

WITH reference to Sir H. Drummond Wolff's despatch No. 39 of the 7th February regarding the alleged approval of the Shereef of Wazzan of the Treaty concluded between the independent Chiefs of Sus and the Globe Venture Syndicate, I have the honour to state that the Company appears to have been misled on this point. A denial of the fact was communicated to the London press by a son of the late Shereef of Wazzan, who is the personage referred to in the Prospectus of the Syndicate; and I am informed on very good authority that what caused such a misapprehension on the part of the Syndicate was that Abdel Kerim Bey (Mr. Geylan) had in his possession two ordinary letters of recommendation from the late Shereef to assist him in his travels in Morocco, but which made no reference to any commercial or other concessions in the Sus district. These documents were exhibited here to a near relative of the late Shereef, who pointed out that they did not convey the interpretation which had been given to them. It was thereupon explained by Abdel Kerim Bey that there had been a misunderstanding on the part of those who drew up the Prospectus, and who had given by mistake a wider meaning to the documents than had been intended.

The point is not of any great importance, but I have ventured to explain to your Lordship how the matter really stands.

I have, &c.

(Signed) A. NICOLSON.

No. 83.

Sir A. Nicolson to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(Received April 8.)

(No. 42.)

My Lord, *Tangier, April 1, 1897.*

I HAVE the honour to acknowledge the receipt of your Lordship's despatch No. 28 of the 20th ultimo relative to the claims of British merchants on account of the disturbances in the M'zab district.

In December last I received a further letter from the Grand Vizier, stating that the Moorish Government is "arranging the measures which will bring the case to a conclusion, which will not harm the natives nor the merchants." As since that date neither my colleagues nor myself have received any further intimation of the progress which is being made towards a settlement of the various claims, I am suggesting to the foreign Representatives that we should once more address the Grand Vizier on the subject, and urge for a speedy conclusion of the matter.

I will inform your Lordship subsequently what reply the Grand Vizier makes to our renewed representations, as I have no doubt that all my colleagues will adopt the suggestion I am placing before them.

I have, &c.

(Signed) A. NICOLSON.

No. 84.

Sir A. Nicolson to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(Received April 11.)

(No. 9.)
(Telegraphic.) P. *Tangier, April 11, 1897.*

MOORISH Mission to London.

I have been sounded by the Vizier through Kaïd Maclean as to sending a Mission to England. Grand Vizier's brother leaves for Paris on 12th May in a French warship, and the Vizier's idea is that he should start afresh from Tangier early in July for England. Kaïd Maclean expressed to Vizier his fears that it would be too late if the Mission reached England in July. Vizier, however, begged him to make inquiries from myself.

As the Moorish Mission is visiting Paris, shall I tell the Grand Vizier that if it arrived in London not later than the middle of July it would be welcome, and suggest that it should travel to London direct from Paris?

Vizier says that the stay of the Mission in Paris would be of about two months' duration.

No. 85.

Sir A. Nicolson to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(Received April 12.)

(No. 43.)
My Lord, *Tangier, April 5, 1897.*

I REGRET to have to trouble your Lordship with the inclosed correspondence regarding the dismissal of Hadj-el-Meslohi, of Tamsloht, from the post of Shereef of that Sanctuary. I have advised and warned the Vizier on more than one occasion against any such step, and from the most recent private information I have received from the Court, I was led to believe that he was still desirous of discussing the question in an amicable manner.

If the Shereef of Tamsloht is in some respects, and in discharge of certain duties to be regarded as a Government functionary, there may have been some irregularity in his having received foreign protection; but then objections should have been made and maintained at the time protection was accorded, and not raised more than two years subsequently. Moreover, so harsh and abrupt an act as his dismissal, while the affairs of the Shereef were under friendly and unofficial discussion, is not only unjust to the individual himself, but discourteous and disloyal to this Legation. I have never had the exact nature of the official relations of the Shereef with the Government clearly explained to me: but the Moorish Government cannot assert that his protection has been really the cause of any embarrassment. The Shereef himself has, under a certain amount of provocation, remained peaceable and anxious to cultivate the most friendly relations with the Government, while this Legation has never taken any advantage of the relations in which that personage stood towards it.

The deprivation of the guardianship of the Sanctuary is a very serious matter to the Shereef himself, and it will also be considered as a blow aimed at our position in this country. It will be rapidly known throughout Morocco that Hadj-el-Meslohi has been degraded, and that the British protection which he enjoyed, was treated of little account, and was even the cause of his removal from his high post.

I do not know if any actual steps have been taken to enforce the decision of the Sultan. I am inclined to doubt it, and it is possible that the communication of Hadj Mohamed Lebady is merely an attempt to ascertain how such a step, if carried out, would be viewed. I have heard nothing directly from the Court, and if the measure had been actually put into execution, I should have been informed of it before the Sultan's deputy here would have been in possession of his instructions.

I will await any instructions which your Lordship may think desirable to give me.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. NICOLSON.

Inclosure 1 in No. 85.

Hadj Mohamed Lebady to Sir A. Nicolson.

(Translation.)
(After compliments.) *Kaada 1, 1314 (April 4, 1897).*

WE brought to the knowledge of our Lord—the victorious in God—the whole of the conversation which passed between us in the matter of Mulai El Hadj Meslohi, about whom it was decided at the recent meeting that his protection could not be withdrawn, and his continuation as Chief (of the Zaonia) was demanded

After our Lord—God exalt him—understood the whole of this, he replied—God assist him—that with reference to the protection it is well known that the established Treaties decide that the protection of anyone who has been invested with Government office in any of its branches will not be permitted, and this Meslohi was Chief (of the Zaonia) by Shereefian authority, as is well known, and he is an official, and must be treated the same as other officials. And with reference to the post of Chief it is not comely for an Envoy of a friendly and just Government to say this, as an intelligent person cannot imagine the possibility of a union between the protection and the chieftainship, which is an appointment to which are attached the rights of the people, which cannot be justly treated save if the Government has a free hand to deal with it (the chieftainship) without hindrance. Especially as he interferes with his relations and others who are his dependents. And the opening of a breach against Government authority constituted by this is apparent. For this reason, His Majesty—God exalt him—has ordered me to write to your exalted Excellency in this sense, and to say that the Government has appointed other than Meslohi from those who are under its authority, for the administration of this post; so that you may write to him not to interfere with anybody, and to give accounts of his administration from the time of his appointment until now. Please reply that I may hasten to send the information to His Shereefian Majesty—exalted of God.

May you continue, &c.

Inclosure 2 in No. 85.

Sir A. Nicolson to Hadj Mohamed Lebady.

(After compliments.) *Tangier, April 5, 1897.*

I HAVE received your Excellency's letter of the 1st Kaada, 1314, announcing that His Majesty the Sultan has appointed some one in the place of Mulai El Hadj Meslohi as Shereef of the Zaonia, and requesting that he should give an account of his administration. This is a very grave matter, and one which I can only treat of direct with the Grand Vizier, and so I merely acknowledge the receipt of your letter, and may you rest in peace.

(Signed) A. NICOLSON.

Inclosure 3 in No. 85.

Sir A. Nicolson to Cid Hamed-ben-Moussa.

(After compliments.) *Tangier, April 5, 1897 (Kaada 2, 1314).*

IT was with much surprise that I received to-day a letter from Hadj Mohamed Lebady informing me that His Majesty the Sultan—whom God protect—had appointed some one else than Hadj Meslohi as Chief of the Zaonia at Tamsloht, and requesting me to instruct him to give an account of his administration.

Your Excellency has been informed frequently by me, through private and other channels, that this Legation should be consulted and its consent obtained before any alterations were effected in the position of Hadj-el-Meslohi; and your Excellency has also received distinct assurances from this Legation that it would not permit the protection to be misused or employed in any way which might be embarrassing to the Moorish Government. Your Excellency was further informed that any complaints which were made against Hadj-el-Meslohi would receive due

and proper attention. Moreover, Hadj-el-Meslohi has shown by all the means in his power his desire to be on peaceable, loyal, and amicable relations with the Moorish Government.

Your Excellency was informed when protection was granted to Hadj-el-Meslohi of the reason of that act, and you appreciated and agreed with the measure. If Hadj-el-Meslohi is a Government functionary now, he was equally so then; and if there were objections to his being a protected subject, they should have been brought forward at the time, and not formulated and action suddenly taken two years subsequently.

I have of late been discussing in a friendly and unofficial way with you the affairs of Hadj-el-Meslohi, and you have frequently told our intermediary that you were about to write to me. You have not done so, but have, through Hadj Mohamed Lebady, abruptly informed me of an accomplished fact, against which I have constantly advised and warned you as a friend.

I do not, however, wish to argue the question. Your Excellency has taken a step which closes any further discussion between us. I will at once inform my Government of the decision to which His Majesty the Sultan has arrived, and must state to them that the only reason which has been conveyed to me for the public degradation of Hadj-el-Meslohi, is because he is under their protection. I leave your Excellency to judge of the impression which will be produced. I shall await the instructions of my Government, but in the meantime I must warn your Excellency that I hold you personally responsible for any steps which may in any way affect the person or the interests of Hadj-el-Meslohi.

Peace.

(Signed) A. NICOLSON.

No. 86.

Sir E. Monson to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(*Received April* 13.)

(No. 114. Africa.)

My Lord, *Paris, April* 12, 1897.

WITH reference to my despatch No. 89, Africa, of the 29th ultimo, reporting an outbreak of the tribes against the Shereefian Governor of Oujda, on the frontier of Oran, I have the honour to report that, according to information published in to-day's "Temps," the movement has not yet been quelled, and that an engagement took place on the 9th instant, which resulted in the flight of a considerable number of the Governor's cavalry across the French frontier.

The Moorish cavalry were pursued by the tribesmen, and the fighting continued until the arrival on the scene of action of the Commanding Officer of the French frontier post of Lalla-Marghnia, with a force of Spahis, some 6 kilom. from the town.

The rebels then took to flight and recrossed the frontier. The French force did not come into action, but a contingent has been left on the frontier to prevent any further incursions.

Before the arrival of the Spahis some tents had been plundered, and one native Algerian killed on French territory.

The "Temps" thinks it advisable to publish this account to counteract the exaggerated details published by several newspapers.

I have, &c.

(Signed) EDMUND MONSON.

No. 87.

Sir A. Nicolson to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(*Received April* 19.)

(No. 10.)

(Telegraphic.) P. *Tangier, April* 19, 1897.

SHEREEF of Tamsloht: My despatch No. 43 of the 5th April.

On receipt of my note the Grand Vizier begged Kaïd Maclean to let me know without delay that no action has been carried out against the Shereef of Tamsloht. Vizier also said that the Deputy of the Sultan had no authority to send me a note. I

No. 86*.

The Marquess of Salisbury to Sir A. Nicolson.

(No. 2.)

(Telegraphic.) P. *Foreign Office, April* 18, 1897.

SHEREEF of Tamsloht.

I have received your despatch No. 43 of the 5th instant.

Her Majesty's Government approve your note to the Grand Vizier, and authorize you to inform his Excellency that they have been greatly surprised at learning of the action taken by the Moorish Government, and that they cannot admit that a person under British protection should be the object of such a proceeding without sufficient cause for it being shown, and without their previous consent.

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feel sure that the Deputy would not have addressed me unless he had instructions to do so.

Vizier says he is writing himself to me, and his Excellency is anxious for me not to report the case to your Lordship, should I not have already done so.

I propose not to make the communication your Lordship conveyed to me in your telegram No. 2 till I receive the Vizier's letter.

No. 88.

The Marquess of Salisbury to Sir A. Nicolson.

(No. 3.)
(Telegraphic.) P. *Foreign Office, April* 19, 1897, 1·20 P.M.

I HAVE submitted your telegram No. 9 of the 5th instant to the Queen, who desires that the Moorish Mission should reach this country not later than the second week in the month of July.

Your proposed answer to the Grand Vizier is in other respects approved.

No. 89.

Sir A. Nicolson to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(Received April 20.)

(No. 44.)
My Lord, *Tangier, April* 5, 1897.

THE Spanish Minister was good enough to send me yesterday copy of a telegram which he had received from the Governor of Melilla, announcing that a British felucca, the "Virgin de los Angeles," had been attacked by a boat manned by six Riffians, off Cape Maure, in close vicinity of Alhucemas. Owing to the high wind the Riffians were unable to board the felucca, which made her way into Alhucemas Bay. None of the shots fired by the Riffians appear to have caused any damage. The master of the felucca, named Francesco Alvarez, says he was bound from Gibraltar to Melilla with a cargo of salt and petroleum, and that he was able to recognize the pirates as men whom he knows. The master will doubtless give full information on his return to Gibraltar, and I have communicated a copy of this despatch to the Governor of Gibraltar.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. NICOLSON.

No. 90.

Sir A. Nicolson to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(Received April 20.)

(No. 45.)
My Lord, *Tangier, April* 5, 1897.

WITH reference to my despatch No. 18 of the 2nd February, I have the honour to transmit the following notes from Kaïd Maclean, on the Sûs Shereefs who have recently been at Court, and to whom reference was made in my above-mentioned despatch :—

"There are two Shereefs, one called the Sheikh of Ma-el-Aineen, who was the one the Government received with exceptional honours. He is very friendly with the Government, and is by far the most powerful and influential man of Sûs. At present he is at a place called Sakia-el-Hamra, and comes from Singuit, near that place. The other man is Sidi Mohammed Wold Horshain-ben-Hashem. He came to see the Sultan soon after we arrived here, and remained for about six months. No especial notice was taken of him, and soon after he left the Government placed a great part of his district under the Kaïd of Gallooney. He affects great friendship for the Sultan, but the Government does not believe or trust him, and thinks he is the cause of all the late troubles in the Sûs. His father was a splendid man, and most powerful in Sûs, but the late Sultan had him poisoned, and broke up the tribes under him."

Kaïd Maclean adds that the Commander of the Sultan's expedition in the Sûs reports that he has severely punished the tribes who attacked the troops, and that he is

in no need of any further reinforcements. It appears that the troops who were defeated, were on their way to Wad Nûn to relieve the guards there, and orders have now been sent to the Commander to send men on at once to that river. The tribes on the coast have also been told to make prisoners of any people who attempt to land merchandize, and to confiscate their goods.

The agent of the "Globe Venture Syndicate" has, I believe, left Tangier on his way to Morocco City, and I trust that he will be able to reassure the Grand Vizier as to the objects and intentions of the Company.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. NICOLSON.

No. 91.

Sir A. Nicolson to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(Received April 20.)

(No. 46.)
My Lord, *Tangier, April 7, 1897.*

I HAVE the honour to acknowledge the receipt of your Lordship's despatch No. 32 of the 26th ultimo relative to the appointment of Semsars in the Moorish dominions.

I think that some confusion has arisen as to the term "agents." There are two categories of agents of foreign merchants in the Moorish dominions: (1) "Semsars," who enjoy personal protection; (2) "Mokhalats," who personally have no claim to protection.

The number of Semsars for each merchant is always considered to be limited to two, unless such merchant or commercial firm has a branch establishment ("comptoir") at a port. Should it be shown that such branch establishment does exist at a port other than the ports where two Semsars have already been granted, it would then be possible to grant additional Semsars.

The number of Mokhalats is unlimited, and a house which is doing large business has usually a considerable number of this class of agents. They are largely employed in buying and selling produce and merchandize in the interior, but they can also act as agents for commercial houses at the sea-ports. The form of certificate issued to them is different to that granted to the Semsars, and bears on the face of it a statement that the document does not entitle the owner to any personal protection. At the same time, by Article IX of the Convention of Madrid, he cannot be arrested without due notice being given to the authority of his employer's nationality. The interests which are committed to his charge are naturally protected, and it is to allow a reasonable time for the withdrawal of those interests that previous notice is required before any action is taken against a Mokhalat by the Moorish authorities.

It is possible that some abuses may have in some instances crept into the distribution of Semsar certificates; but I am of opinion that the very large majority of the foreign Legations, as is the case with this Legation, adhere strictly to the provisions of the Madrid Convention and to the Franco–Moorish Agreement of 1863.

I am informed that at the time of conclusion of the British Treaty of 1856, all agents were simply Mokhalats; and that Semsars, who are for all practical purposes on the same footing as foreign subjects, did not then exist.

It is quite true, as stated by the London Chamber of Commerce, that it would be difficult for a gentleman in Tetuan to protect interests in Mazagan; but a commercial firm which had already obtained the two Semsars allowed by Treaty could, without difficulty, have Mokhalats at all the ports on the coast, and these agents are, I believe, able to meet all the necessary requirements.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. NICOLSON.

No. 92.

Sir A. Nicolson to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(Received April 20.)

(No. 48.)
My Lord, *Tangier, April 12, 1897.*

I RECEIVED yesterday a letter from Kaïd Maclean, informing me that the Grand Vizier had requested him to inquire whether it would be convenient and agreeable to Her Majesty's Government to receive his Excellency's brother as a Special Envoy from His

Majesty the Sultan. This Envoy was leaving the port of Mazagan about the 12th May in a French man-of-war for France, and the Grand Vizier proposed that, after the mission to Paris had terminated, that the Envoy should return to Tangier, and then take his departure for England, presumably on a British man-of-war.

Kaïd Maclean inquired of what duration the stay of the Envoy in France would be, and was informed that he would probably remain in Paris about two months. Kaïd Maclean observed that, by this arrangement, the Moorish Mission would not reach London till towards the end of July, and that he feared this would be too late in the season. The Grand Vizier begged him to send an express courier to me, and inquire what my opinion was on the subject.

I do not propose to reply till I receive an answer to the telegram which I had the honour to send your Lordship yesterday, and, in case Her Majesty's Government are disposed to favourably view the proposal of the Grand Vizier, your Lordship may think it more convenient for the Envoy to proceed direct from Paris to London instead of taking the unnecessarily circuitous route by Tangier.

The French Minister last night asked if I had any news of the dispatch of a Moorish Mission to England, and I told him that I had been sounded on the subject. I said that it would appear that the Mission intended to remain in Paris two months, at which M. de Moubel expressed great surprise, saying he had been under the impression that the stay would not extend over a fortnight, and he feared his Government would find it somewhat difficult to entertain their guests during so long a period. He added that, if that was the case, he would suggest that the Mission, after visiting Paris, should be taken a tour in Algeria, so that the Envoy might see how an Oriental country should be administered.

I believe the Mission is not a large one, being composed of the Envoy, his Secretary, and a few servants.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. NICOLSON.

No. 93.

Sir A. Nicolson to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(Received April 20.)

(No. 49.)
My Lord, *Tangier, April 13, 1897.*

I HAVE the honour to transmit copy of a despatch I have received from Mr. Vice-Consul MacLeod, inclosing translation of a Shereefian letter which has been publicly read at Fez, and which gives the Government account of the recent occurrences in the Sûs district.

I am informed privately from Court that the tribes are now subdued, and that the Commander of the expedition, which suffered a reverse at the hands of some of the tribes, has been brought into Morocco City as a prisoner.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. NICOLSON.

Inclosure 1 in No. 93.

Vice-Consul MacLeod to Sir A. Nicolson.

(No. 13.)
Sir, *Fez, April 5, 1897.*

I HAVE the honour to inclose herewith copy and translation of a Shereefian letter read in the Karûin Mosque here yesterday respecting recent events in the Sûs country.

Yesterday the forty-three heads referred to were suspended over Bab Mhroke, and public rejoicings commenced.

I have, &c.
(Signed) J. M. MACLEOD.

Inclosure 2 in No. 93.

Translation of Shereefian Letter read in the Karûin Mosque, Fez, Sunday, April 4, 1897 (2 *Koda*, 1314), *respecting the Sûs Disorders.*

Praise to the One God !

OUR servant, the Honourable Kaïd Dris Ben Allam, and people of Fez, especially the Ulema, the Shorfa, and Notables, God be propitious to you, peace upon you and the mercy of God, and afterwards.

Whereas the people of "Sous-al-Aksa" and their Governors were formerly amongst the obedient subjects of those under our sacred father Mulaï-al-Hassan, until God took him (may God rest him), thereafter they quarrelled amongst themselves, refusing to pay the Government dues, and became rebellious, and we forbade their doing so, and ordered them, out of kindness and regard for them, to go in the path they followed in my father's time formerly and pay their dues. They refused to do so, and, as is said in the Koran, "But he whom God shall cause to err shall have none to direct him."

We sent our cousin Mulaï Othman and our servant Basha Hamoo Ben Jellali to them with an army ordering them to settle between themselves.

Their fate being evidently divinely decreed against them, they remained contumacious, and the army attacked them, and took heads from them, and many prisoners were taken from them, and their houses were razed, and their trees were burned until the fire could be seen for three hours' march. And they fled until they became invisible in those parts.

Then certain of the army followed them, searching for the criminals to cut off the heads of the rest of them, when these rebels turned upon the soldiers, and the cartridges became exhausted, and so the others overcame them disastrously.

When the news of that reached us on the 4th Shoowal, we sent a second army with our servant Al Jelowi, and we ordered him to pursue the remaining rebels. He pursued them, and attacked them at the head of the river, and killed many of them, and cut heads from them, and took many prisoners, and from those heads we send you herewith forty-three to be hung over the city gate. And thereupon the remainder of them came to us, beseeching pardon, and requesting quarter, and promising to pay their dues; so we ordered our servant Al Jelowi and Sid-al-Hosain Ben Mohamed to proceed with a third army, which left to-day, to calm their disturbances, and to choose Sheikhs over them from amongst the best of them, and to receive the Government dues, and to bring them back to the good faith which they formerly followed. And we will inform you of the result.

God is our defender.

Peace.

12 *Shoowal*, 1314.

No. 94.

Sir A. Nicolson to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(*Received April* 23.)

(No. 50.)

My Lord, *Tangier, April* 14, 1897.

WITH reference to my despatch No. 21 of the 14th February, 1896, and to previous correspondence, I have the honour to state that one of the Deputies of the Sultan here, Cid Abdulkrim Brisha, has written to the Doyen of the Diplomatic Body to say that the Sultan has withdrawn the Regulations dealing with commercial transactions, which were inclosed in Mr. White's despatch No. 138 of the 22nd September, 1895, and against which the foreign Representatives had protested.

Cid Abdulkrim Brisha, in announcing that the Moorish Government no longer insist on the Regulations being enforced, expresses the hope that the foreign Representatives will discuss with him the question of regulating trade transactions in this country. As the views of the Diplomatic Body and the Moorish Government in regard to the unimpeded prosecution of innocent commerce are somewhat devergent, I do not think much practical advantage will be attained by a discussion. It is, however, satisfactory to note that the representations of the Diplomatic Body have induced the Moorish

Government to abandon a measure which would have been most injurious to the trade of this country.

I have, &c.

(Signed) A. NICOLSON.

No. 95.

Sir A. Nicolson to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(*Received April* 23.)

(No. 51.)

My Lord, *Tangier, April* 16, 1897.

WITH reference to my despatch No. 15 of the 30th January last, I have the honour to transmit copy of a despatch which I have received from Mr. Consul Maclean, reporting on the present position of the question of the debts due to British merchants at Saffi. The peasantry throughout the country are suffering from a drought, and harvest prospects are critical. In these circumstances, I consider it would be advisable to refrain from taking the step suggested by Mr. Maclean; as, if it were pressed upon and accepted by tha Moorish Government, I fear that the method which would be adopted by the Moorish authorities for the collection of debts would not be equitable, and would probably inflict great hardships on many unfortunate people. Moreover, there would be the danger, alluded to by Mr. Maclean, of extreme measures causing an indefinite suspension of all business. It would, in my opinion, be preferable to give yet further time to permit debtors to come in voluntarily; and should I hear that the Governors of the districts are placing obstacles in their way, I will then make further representations to the Grand Vizier. The system of conducting business, as mentioned in Mr. Maclean's despatch, is, I believe, peculiar to Saffi, and certainly does not facilitate the just collection of debts.

I have, &c.

(Signed) A. NICOLSON.

Inclosure in No. 95.

Consul Maclean to Sir A. Nicolson.

(No. 25.)

Sir, *Dar-al-Baïda, March* 29, 1897.

WITH reference to your Excellency's despatch No. 8 of the 30th January, I have the honour to report that, when I left Saffi on the 24th ultimo, the position of the British commercial community, with relation to its provincial debts, had much improved.

Although only 22, out of 150 debtors applied for, had been sent into town, yet many had come in of their own accord, and merchants' collectors in the country districts had met with some little success in getting in payments. About 15 per cent. of money owing had been paid, and it appeared that the knowledge that payment of all debts to Europeans would be insisted upon had become general.

Previous to my arrival in Saffi this obligation had not been recognized, as the Kalyles believed the Sultan would pay all debts due to Europeans, because it was through the weakness of the Government that the country had been for two years in a lawless state, and orderly people had not been able to follow their usual occupations.

Through your Excellency's kind representations to the Vizier, Shereefian orders have been issued to the Kaïds to send into town all debtors applied for by me through the Oomana, who were directed to afford me every assistance in their power. These orders were repeated three or four times.

One Kaïd, Aisa-ben-Omar, obeyed them to the letter, although he took his own time to do so. Other Kaïds only sent in a small proportion of the men applied for, and others sent none.

All the Kaïds promised to send the people in, and promised, too, that all debts should be settled at harvest time.

At my request, the Oomana kept the Vizier well informed of the measure of obedience the Shereefian orders had received.

I showed great patience, as it seemed to me to be in the merchants' interests that extreme measures should be avoided, for the following reasons:—

1. It was generally believed that now they had learnt that the Sultan would not pay their debts debtors would come in of their own accord, and make arrangements with their creditors.

2. That they would not have the means for paying until the harvest.

3. In the majority of transactions, money, for which only an individual was legally responsible, was really owed by a whole tribe; and hence, were the responsible individuals prosecuted, he might declare himself insolvent (very rarely could he discharge the whole debt), and the merchant would lose his money.

4. It was not possible to give an exact account of what is owing to merchants. I could never arrive at it, and merchants themselves could not enlighten me. This is accounted for by the system of business. Some of the notarial documents are agreements to deliver so many loads of beans, wool, or grain. Others show an indebtedness for half a mare or half a horse. Even the books do not give full information, as it often happens a debtor sends in a friend with a load of produce, who delivers it without saying from whom it comes, and takes a receipt for it. Not until the debtor presents himself with the receipts in his possession can his accounts be adjusted.

5. Were extreme measures to be taken, all business would be practically suspended for an indefinite period of time.

The prospect of an excellent harvest has now been spoilt on account of drought, and the situation has changed.

I learn that since my departure debtors have ceased to enter Saffi of their own accord. It is reported to me that the Oomana have written twenty-five letters to the Kaïds, and have received no satisfactory replies. They begged me, through Mr. Vice-Consul Hunot, not to report this to your Excellency, and they promised things should be put right, but until now this promise has not been fulfilled.

I considered it best to wait until the return of the Kaïds—who have been attending the Court at Marakesh for the festival after Ramadan—to their districts, in order that they might have an opportunity, after having recently seen the Vizier, to obey the Shereefian orders, but there is no sign of their intending to do so.

The fact is, Sir, that although orders have been sent that British debts were to be paid, they have always been followed by Shereefian letters ordering the Kaïds to collect from the people large sums of money for Government account. The Kaïds have considered it to their interests to obey the latter, and disobey the former, orders.

Just before my departure from Saffi, I received a message from the Vizier that if the Kaïds did not obey the orders to send in debtors, his Excellency would send some "big person" to see that matters went right. This promise has not been fulfilled.

I would venture respectfully to submit to your Excellency that, having done all that is possible to insure a proper treatment of the British claims in Saffi, and having met with nothing but empty promises and tergiversation from the Moorish officials, that I be permitted to direct Mr. Vice-Consul Hunot to hand over all documents, together with a list of debts, to the Oomana for collection, and that the Moorish Government be informed that it is responsible for their collection within a certain period of time.

I have, &c.
(Signed) ALLAN MACLEAN.

No. 96.

Sir A. Nicolson to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(Received April 23.)

(No. 52.)
My Lord, *Tangier, April 16, 1897.*

WITH reference to my despatch No. 31 of the 5th March, I have the honour to transmit translation of a note which I have received from the Grand Vizier, stating that orders have been sent for the arrest of the soldiers who were the chief parties in the assault on Mr. Carleton, and also that an Amin, with two notaries, has been instructed to proceed to Alcazar to inquire into the incident.

The evidence which I forwarded to the Vizier seemed quite sufficient to enable his Excellency to come to a decision without further inquiry, but I presume that no objection can be raised to the Moorish Government wishing to make an investigation on the spot when one of their functionaries is implicated in a grave assault on a foreign subject. I would propose to send Mr. Irwin, Interpreter of this Legation, to assist at the inquiry. The general tenour of the note of the Grand Vizier is satisfactory, as I think it shows a desire to do justice in the case.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. NICOLSON.

Inclosure in No. 96.

Cid Hamed-ben-Moussa to Sir A. Nicolson.

(Translation.)
(After compliments.) 21 *Shawal*, 1314 (*March* 25, 1897).

YOUR letter has reached, oh, friend, with reference to the complaint of the Englishman Bibi (Carleton) as to a fight which occurred between his friend Emsahel Dukali and the men of Kaïd Abdelkader-el-Khalkhali and of what passed between him (Carleton) and the Kaïd, and stating that you had sent some one from Tangier to inquire into the occurrence when you sent the information, and we received the copies of the documents in proof of the affair inclosed, and you leave the Government to judge the affair according to justice, &c.

I am aware of it after bringing it to the knowledge of His Majesty, the Victorious in God, and he has ordered me, God exalt him, to reply to you, oh, friend:—

Firstly, that your friendly Government is aware that the greatest attention and fullest care is given by His Sublime Majesty to all matters connected with it which come before him, and that he, God assist him, would not consent to a single hair of any of its subjects being harmed within his dominions, the happy, less so that of which you inform him in your letter, oh, friend. You must be aware that the going of this Englishman in the first place to the house of Kaïd-el-Khalkhali was the cause of the affair reaching the stage you have informed us of, and had he limited himself to speaking to the Kaïd of Alcazar (the town) in the customary way, he (the Kaïd) would have spoken to Kaïd-el-Khalkhali about it, and the affair would have been simple, and we should not all be mixed up in the violence and fighting complained of between a Government Kaïd and a subject of a friendly and respected nation: it would not have been too late to have obtained the fullest justice from whoever might have been shown to be in the wrong. And as it has happened, and the Kaïd-el-Khalkhali has written also about the affair, stating that he holds documents in proof of what occurred, His Majesty, God assist him, is impelled, from his attention to your Government, to give the fullest attention to the matter, and to see that justice is done without paying heed to the words of El-Khalkhali or his retainers, and he has issued his Shereefian orders, in the first place, to him to immediately seize Hamadi and his brother Mohamed, who, you inform us, were the two who did and caused what occurred, and hand them over as prisoners to the Kaïd of Alcazar to imprison them under his keeping until the affair is concluded; as also he has issued his Shereefian orders to send an intelligent and trustworthy Amin and two notaries from amongst the best Adools of Rabat to Alcazar for the purpose of verifying the facts of the occurrence, and to collect the testimony of all of the inhabitants who have cognizance of the affair, attended by whoever you may agree to appoint on your side from Tangier, and send him through the servant of our Lord, the Deputy Cid-el-Hadj Mahomed Torres, when he asks you to do so, in order that he may send letters with him to the Kaïd of Alcazar. And he will be in attendance there with those sent from Rabat until they collect the testimony of all who have cognizance of the affair and the facts are verified, which will not leave room for listening to the words of Khalkhali or any one else who wishes to alter the case. After that the decision of His Sublime Majesty will be given in the affair in a manner which will do due, full, and sufficient justice, by the help of God, and you will be informed of it, as you have placed the matter, oh, friend, in the hands of His Sublime Majesty. Therefore have your nominee ready to be present with the Commissioners, so that when His Majesty's servant Torres requests his presence he may be prepared.

May you continue, &c.

(Signed) HAMED-BEN-MOUSSA-BEN-HAMED.

No. 97.

Colonial Office to Foreign Office.—(Received April 23.)

Sir, *Downing Street, April 22, 1897.*

I AM directed by Mr. Secretary Chamberlain to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 7th instant, covering a despatch from Her Majesty's Minister at Tangier, respecting the practice said to have grown up among the Riff tribes of importing rifles and cartridges from Gibraltar through the Spanish possession of Alhucemas.

In reply, I am to request you to point out to the Marquess of Salisbury that it

would be impossible to hinder individual Moors from coming to Gibraltar and purchasing a rifle and ammunition for their own use, though general exportation can be prevented.

A copy of Sir A. Nicolson's despatch will, however, be sent to the Governor of Gibraltar with instructions to institute a careful inquiry as to the alleged practice, and to consider whether any action in the matter is possible.

I am, &c.
(Signed) EDWARD WINGFIELD.

No. 98.

Sir E. Monson to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(Received April 24.)

(No. 129. Africa.)
My Lord, *Paris, April 22, 1897.*

FROM a telegram dated Oran the 20th instant, it would appear that the disturbances in the district of Oujda, which formed the subject of my despatches Nos. 89 and 114, Africa, of the 29th ultimo and the 12th instant respectively, have not yet been quelled.

On the 17th ihstant the reinforcements sent by the Sultan of Morocco to the Governor of Oujda attacked a band of insurgents engaged in fighting with the Zhara tribe, and, after a determined engagement, succeeded in burning the tents and stacks of the rebels.

Forty of the Shereefian troops and 150 of the rebels were killed during the engagement.

General Cluny, the Commander of the Tlemcen sub-division, had left for Zongbrat, and, with the officer in command of the Lalla-Maghrnia district, was taking steps for the defence of the Algerian frontier.

To-day's "Temps" states that the Special Mission referred to in my despatch No. 283 of the 18th instant will be charged with the settlement of the Tuat question.

I have, &c.
(Signed) EDMUND MONSON.

No. 99.

Sir E. Monson to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(Received April 24.)

(No. 134.)
My Lord, *Paris, April 23, 1897.*

WITH reference to my despatch No. 129, Africa, of yesterday's date, I have the honour to report that, according to this morning's newspapers, M. Cambon, the Governor-General of Algeria, has left Algiers for Maghnia on the Morocco frontier.

It is feared that the revolted tribesmen, if beaten by the troops at the disposal of the Governor of Oujda, may seek refuge across the Algerian frontier.

M. Cambon is expected back at Algiers in about six days.

I have, &c.
(Signed) EDMUND MONSON.

No. 100.

Sir A. Nicolson to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(Received April 27.)

(No. 11.)
(Telegraphic.) P. *Tangier, April 27, 1897.*

MOORISH Mission to England: My telegram No. 9.

It appears that the Grand Vizier is now desirous of sending a Special Mission to England to attend the Jubilee of Her Majesty the Queen. This Mission would be distinct from the Mission going to France.

My letter to the Grand Vizier saying that a Mission would be received in England, provided it arrived not later than the first or second week in July, has not yet been received by his Excellency.

If I am pressed by the Sultan for the reception of a Mission to England for the Jubilee, am I to agree, or should I explain that the July arrangement had better be adhered to.

A man-of-war would be expected for the conveyance of the Special Mission, if it is accepted. The French are doing so.

No. 101.

Foreign Office to London Chamber of Commerce.

Sir, *Foreign Office, April 27, 1897.*

WITH reference to my letter of the 26th ultimo, I am directed by the Marquess of Salisbury to transmit to you the accompanying extract of a despatch which has been received from Her Majesty's Minister at Tangier, reporting upon the subject of the appointment of Semsars in Morocco.*

It will be observed from Sir A. Nicolson's Report that a distinction exists in Morocco between agents termed "Semsars" and those termed "Mokhalats;" the former, whose numbers are limited under the Madrid Convention of 1880, being the protected class, and the latter, whose numbers are not limited, being those described in the Anglo-Moorish Treaty of 1856 as not entitled to protection.

I am, &c.
(Signed) T. H. SANDERSON.

No. 102.

Sir A. Nicolson to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(Received April 30.)

(No. 53.)
My Lord, *Tangier, April 21, 1897.*

WITH reference to my despatch No. 43 of the 5th April, I have the honour to report that I received a private communication from the Court, informing me that my note regarding the dismissal of the Shereef of Tamsloht had been handed to the Vizier. The possible consequences of the step which the Moorish Government had taken, or proposed to take, were verbally explained to his Excellency, who eventually stated that the Moorish Government had not adopted any measures against the Shereef, and that the Sultan's Deputy in Tangier had not been authorized to address me the communication which I had received. The Vizier added that he would write personally to me and explain matters, and earnestly hoped that I would report nothing to your Lordship.

The disavowal of Hadj Mehemed Lebady is a convenient method of escaping from the difficulty in which the Grand Vizier finds himself placed, though it is not credible that the Agent of the Sultan would have ventured on his own initiative alone to have officially intimated to me the dismissal of the Shereef of Tamsloht.

I trust that the Vizier will abstain from further interference with the position of the Shereef, and I would propose to refrain from communicating the views of Her Majesty's Government, as stated in your Lordship's telegram No. 3 of the 19th instant, until I hear from his Excellency. Should his communication be satisfactory your Lordship may wish me to consider the incident as closed, and to suspend acting on the instructions which I have had the honour to receive.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. NICOLSON.

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* No. 91.

No. 103.

The Marquess of Salisbury to Sir A. Nicolson.

(No. 46.)

Sir,

Foreign Office, April 30, 1897.

I HAVE received your despatch No. 51 of the 16th instant, forwarding a report from Her Majesty's Consul at Dar-al-Baïda, on the present position of the question of the debts due to British merchants at Saffi.

I approve the course which you propose to take in this matter.

I am, &c.

(Signed) SALISBURY.

No. 104.

The Marquess of Salisbury to Sir A. Nicolson.

(No. 47.)

Sir,

Foreign Office, April 30, 1897.

I HAVE received your despatch No. 52 of the 16th instant relating to the assault committed on Mr. Carleton at Alcazar, and I approve of your sending Mr. Irwin, the Interpreter of Her Majesty's Legation, to that place, to assist at the investigation of the case which is about to be made by the Moorish Government.

I am, &c.

(Signed) SALISBURY.

No. 105.

Sir A. Nicolson to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(Received May 5.)

(No. 12.)

(Telegraphic.) P.

Tangier, May 5, 1897.

MOORISH Mission.

Kaïd Maclean has been asked by the Vizier to let me know that it is proposed that the Mission should be in England on the 5th July. It will probably travel to London direct from Paris, and, including the servants, will consist of about forty persons. I am shortly to receive an official letter on the subject from the Vizier.

It appears that the idea of a separate Mission for Her Majesty's Jubilee has been abandoned by His Majesty the Sultan.

No. 106.

Consul-General Hay-Newton to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(Received May 8.)

(No. 3. Confidential.)

My Lord,

Algiers, April 30, 1897.

I HAVE the honour to inform your Lordship that the Governor-General left Algiers on Friday last, the 23rd instant, for the Morocco frontier; that on arriving there he appears, together with the General Commanding the district, to have interviewed one or more rebel Chiefs from the Morocco territory, and to have accompanied them to the heights overlooking the frontier. He is now, I understand, on his way back to Paris to report on the result of his mission.

I am collecting as much information as I can with respect to this matter, and will then transmit it to your Lordship.

I have, &c.

(Signed) F. HAY-NEWTON.

No. 107.

Sir E. Monson to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(Received May 8.)

(No. 317.)

My Lord,

Paris, May 7, 1897.

WITH reference to my despatch No. 309 of the 4th instant, I have the honour to report that a statement appears in this morning's papers that fresh disturbances have broken out on the frontier between Morocco and Algeria. Troops are said to have been dispatched in the direction of Tekbalet and Mechamicha, on the frontier between Oudjda and Garoubon, and hostilities seem to be imminent.

I have, &c.

(Signed) EDMUND MONSON.

No. 108.

London Chamber of Commerce to Foreign Office.—(Received May 8.)

Botolph House, Eastcheap,

Sir,

London, May 7, 1897.

AS I have already informed you, I transmitted a copy of your letter of the 29th ultimo on the subject of the appointment of Semsars in Morocco, together with the extract from a despatch received from Her Majesty's Minister at Tangier, to the members of this Chamber, on whose behalf the question was raised. In the course of a letter I have received from them this morning they say: "May we call your attention to the fact that the authorities in Tangier do not give an answer to the simple question we asked, as to whether it is, or is not, a fact that foreign nations interpret the Treaty to mean that they may have two Semsars in each port, and do have such Semsars. Surely it is easy for them to answer this question—yes or no. As to agents, they are practically useless; as if you have a good Moorish agent, and he is doing well, the Moorish authorities come down upon him for excess of taxes, and, as you really cannot protect him, he is put in prison, and all your time and trouble in that particular port is thrown away. All this must be known to any permanent official in Tangier, and has been the complaint for years.

Whilst submitting the above views as expressing the opinions of those interested, I have no wish that they should necessarily be taken as asking for a further examination into the subject, but are merely communicated for your information or guidance.

I am, &c.

(Signed) KENRIC B. MURRAY,

Secretary.

No. 109.

Sir A. Nicolson to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(Received May 8.)

(No. 13.)

(Telegraphic.) P.

Tangier, May 8, 1897.

MOORISH Mission: My telegram No. 12.

I have received an official letter from the Grand Vizier stating that His Majesty the Sultan wishes to send a Mission to England. The Ambassador, who proposes to proceed to London from Paris on the termination of his business with the French Government, is the same as is to go to the latter capital. The letter does not mention any special date, but it states that His Majesty the Sultan would like his Ambassador to be present at Her Majesty's Jubilee.

The French Minister, to whom I have spoken, thinks that his Government will have settled their business by about the 20th June. He says that his Government could probably manage to keep the Moorish Mission a few days longer in case it would be more convenient that it should not arrive in England till the end of June.

No. 110.

The Marquess of Salisbury to Sir A. Nicolson.

(No. 4.)
(Telegraphic.) P. *Foreign Office, May* 11, 1897.

MOORISH Mission: Your telegram No. 13 of the 8th instant.

Great difficulty would be found at this time in furnishing accommodation for the Special Mission in the week of the Jubilee celebrations.

Please try to make arrangements so that the Mission should not reach this country before the end of next month.

No. 111.

The Marquess of Salisbury to Sir A. Nicolson.

(No. 50.) *Foreign Office, May* 11, 1897.

Sir,

WITH reference to your despatch No. 46 of the 7th ultimo, relating to the appointment of Semsars in Morocco, I transmit to you herewith a copy of a further letter which has been received from the London Chamber of Commerce on this subject.*

I should be glad to receive any observations which you may have to offer on this communication.

I am, &c.
(Signed) SALISBURY.

No. 112.

Foreign Office to London Chamber of Commerce.

Foreign Office, May 11, 1897.

Sir,

I AM directed by the Marquess of Salisbury to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 7th instant, relating to the appointment of Semsars in Morocco, and I am to say that a copy of this communication will be forwarded to Her Majesty's Minister at Tangier, for his observations.

I am, &c.
(Signed) T. H. SANDERSON.

No. 113.

Sir A. Nicolson to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(Received May 16.)

(No. 14. Confidential.)
(Telegraphic.) P. *Tangier, May* 16, 1897.

MOORISH Mission to Paris.

I hear that the Mission will try to secure an engagement from the French Government that Tuat should not be occupied by France, the Moorish Government not objecting to the construction of a railway and a telegraph line in the district on payment to themselves of a royalty. I am informed also that the Mission will request the withdrawal of the French military officers at Court and the abolition of the French Vice-Consulate at Fez, but it will not ask for the withdrawal of the French Agent at Court.

The Moorish Government will, if these points are granted by the French Government, engage themselves to be guided in all matters by the counsels of the French Government, and would consider the French Government as their chief friends.

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* No. 168.

No. 112*.

Sir A. Nicolson to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(Received May 13.)

(No. 61.)
My Lord, *Tangier, May* 5, 1897.

I RECEIVED this morning a letter from Kaïd Maclean, informing me that the Grand Vizier, on hearing that a Moorish Mission would be received in England—but that it should not arrive later than the second week in July—wished him to tell me that the Mission about to proceed to Paris would arrange to be in London on the 5th July. His Excellency said that in case the Mission finished their work in Paris before July and had nothing to keep them in France, he proposed that they should return to Tangier and be conveyed in a British man-of-war to England, but if they were able to remain in France till July they would go direct from Paris to London. His Excellency added that he would write at once to me officially on the subject.

I beg leave to inclose a list of the Mission which is proceeding to Paris, and which, presumably, will be the same as will be sent to England. Its number is larger than I anticipated.

The French Minister tells me that the French man-of-war will embark the Ambassador at Mazagan, and will then come here before continuing the journey to France. I doubt if the Mission will arrive in Paris much before the end of this month, and as it is said that the Ambassador has several questions to discuss with the French Government, I think that the time will be fully occupied in Paris till the day arrives for the departure of the Mission to England.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. NICOLSON.

Inclosure in 112*.

List of Members of Mission proceeding to France.

Ambassador—Ci Mohammed, brother of Vizier.				
First Secretary—Ci Mohammed-ben-Suleiman.				
6	Kaïds.			
1	Interpreter—Ci Mohammed-bel-Kab.			
1	Ameen—Mohammed-ben-Kassem Kennoon.			
1	Time-keeper.			
1	Barber.			
1	Butcher.			
2	Cooks.			
1	Master of Horse.			
2	Grooms.			
10	Private servants belonging to Ambassador.			
7	,,	,,	,,	First Secretary.
4	,,	,,	,,	Kaïds.
2	,,	,,	,,	Ameen.
1	,,	,,	,,	Interpreter.

No. 114.

Sir H. Drummond Wolff to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(*Received May* 17.)

(No. 128.)

My Lord, *Madrid, May* 14, 1897.

THE Spanish newspapers have begun to comment on the disturbed state of a portion of the frontier of Algeria and Morocco. It is feared that the agitation on the part of the Moors may entail some reprisal or energetic action from the French authorities, a circumstance always viewed with apprehension by the Spanish public.

I have, &c.

(Signed) H. DRUMMOND WOLFF.

No. 115.

Sir A. Nicolson to the Marquess of Salisbury—(*Received May* 17.)

(No. 15.)

(Telegraphic.) P. *Tangier, May* 17, 1897.

MOORISH Mission: Your Lordship's telegram No. 4 of the 11th May.

I endeavoured as far as possible, without causing offence, to secure the definite postponement of the Moorish Mission to London till the end of June. The Ambassador promises to reply definitely about the 8th or 10th June, and his Excellency pleads that the question may remain open until he knows how his business in Paris progresses. I pointed out to his Excellency the great difficulty in following this course. He would, however, be most grateful if it could be so arranged, as he is anxious to meet the Sultan's wishes for him to attend Her Majesty's Jubilee.

The Ambassador leaves here for Paris on Wednesday evening, and should arrive there on the 25th instant. The Mission consists of thirty-four persons, twenty-three being servants.

No. 116.

Colonial Office to Foreign Office.—(*Received May* 18.)

Sir, *Downing Street, May* 17, 1897.

I AM directed by the Secretary of State for the Colonies to transmit to you, for the information of the Marquess of Salisbury, in further reply to your letter of the 7th ultimo, respecting the alleged importation of rifles and cartridges by the Riff tribes from Gibraltar through the Spanish possession of Alhucemas, a copy of a despatch from the Governor, from which it appears that the report is incorrect.

I am, &c.

(Signed) JOHN BRAMSTON.

Inclosure in No. 116.

Governor Sir R. Biddulph to Mr. Chamberlain.

Sir, *Gibraltar, May* 4, 1897.

I HAVE the honour to acknowledge the receipt of your despatch of the 22nd ultimo forwarding a copy of a letter from the Foreign Office relative to the alleged importation into Morocco of rifles and cartridges from Gibraltar through the Spanish possession of Alhucemas.

2. I do not think there is any foundation for the belief, stated by the Sultan of Morocco's Envoy to Sir A. Nicolson to exist, that rifles and ammunition are purchased by Moors in Gibraltar and introduced among the Riff tribes through Alhucemas, for there is no stock of either of these articles in Gibraltar from which to make purchases.

The import of arms and ammunition into Gibraltar, as well as the export from it, is controlled by the provisions of local laws, and can only be conducted under permit. No importation of rifles is ever allowed, except in very small numbers sufficient to supply the *bond fide* demand for sporting rifles, and I may draw your attention to the Marquess of Ripon's despatch of the 20th November, 1894, forwarding a complaint from Messrs. Ely of the injury to their trade arising from my refusal to allow the importation of Remington cartridges in greater quantities than seemed required for sporting purposes. In my reply of the 29th December, 1894, I pointed to the facilities afforded to the trade in rifles and ammunition with Morocco by the Spanish authorities in Malaga, Lanea, and Algeciras.

3. The prohibition referred to in the correspondence above quoted still exists, and arms and ammunition obtained in the way described by Hadj Mehemed Lebaby would have first to be smuggled into Gibraltar and then smuggled out again, and as a very careful watch is kept upon this traffic by revenue officers of experience, I have no reason to believe that it could be successfully conducted,

3. On the other hand, there is nothing to prevent feluccas after leaving our waters from shipping rifles and ammunition purchased in Spain, and though I have no knowledge of any such case ever having occurred, it is possible that the practice does exist, and it would account for the rumours reported to Sir A. Nicolson.

5. A considerable quantity of arms and ammunition has been seized from time to time as contraband on importation here, and in every case it has been of Spanish make and owned by Spanish subjects. I do not at present see how our precautions can be increased, nor do I believe that any considerable quantity of rifles or ammunition could pass between Gibraltar and Alhucemas without detection.

I have, &c.
(Signed) R. BIDDULPH.

No. 117.

Sir A. Nicolson to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(Received May 19.)

(No. 55.)
My Lord, *Tangier, April 30, 1897.*

WITH reference to my despatch No. 12 of the 21st January last, I have the honour to state that Hadj Abdulkerim Brisha having expressed to the doyen of the Diplomatic Body his desire to renew the discussions in regard to the raising the rents on Mosque and Government property, his communication was referred to the Commission which is dealing with this matter, and which is composed of the French and Spanish Ministers and myself.

We are unanimously of opinion that it would be undesirable to reopen negotiations as to increasing rents on Government property until the Moorish Government showed some disposition to interpret in a more equitable and satisfactory manner the stipulations of the Madrid Convention in regard to the tenure of real property by foreigners. The Moorish authorities have, of late, been interfering in a most vexatious manner with the rights of foreigners in this respect, and I may cite as an instance the case of a Belgian subject who owns in her own name a house at Mazagan, and in which she desired to make some very necessary repairs. The Moorish local authorities have refused permission to her to undertake these works, and the Belgian Minister has been compelled to address a remonstrance to the Grand Vizier.

I beg leave to transmit copy of a note which my colleagues and myself have addressed to Hadj Abdulkerim Brisha, in which we express our view that the question of increasing the rents of Habous property cannot be separated from that affecting the execution of Article XI of the Madrid Convention. I trust your Lordship will approve of the tenour of this communication.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. NICOLSON.

Inclosure in No. 117.

Draft of Note to Hadj Abdul Kerim Brisha.

(Après les compliments d'usage.) *Tanger, le Avril*, 1897.

LA Commission du Corps Diplomatique qui a été nommée en vue de discuter avec votre Excellence sur la question d'augmenter les loyers perçus sur les propriétés des Habous, a été informé que vous désirez recommencer les négociations suspendues à cause de la maladie de M. le Ministre d'Espagne.

La Commission serait heureuse de se rendre aujourd'hui aux désirs de votre Excellence, mais depuis la dernière séance certains points ont été portés à sa connaissance sur lesquels elle se considère obligée d'appeler votre attention. Vous savez sans doute qu'en 1889 on pria les Représentants étrangers de consentir à ce que les loyers des propriétés des Habous à Tanger fussent doublés. Le consentement fut donné; mais lorsqu'en 1890 on désira appliquer cette augmentation dans les villes de la côte et de l'intérieur, on se trouva en présence de circonstances qui rendaient cette augmentation très préjudiciable aux intérêts des négociants Européens et on dût y renoncer.

Vous n'ignorez pas en effet que dans les villes de la côte et ailleurs qu'à Tanger les stipulations de la Convention de Madrid, en ce qui concerne la jouissance des immeubles par les étrangers, restent lettre morte. La clause dans l'Article XI de la Convention de Madrid, qui dit que le consentement préalable du Gouvernement Chérifien doit être obtenu pour l'achat des immeubles par les étrangers, a été interprétée par le Gouvernement Chérifien dans un sens qui annule l'Article de la Convention, et les étrangers ont été de ce fait exclus de l'acquisition de maisons et de propriétés sous leurs propres noms. Ainsi, d'une part le Gouvernement Chérifien refuse de permettre aux sujets étrangers d'acheter des terrains et de construire pour eux-mêmes des maisons tandis que de l'autre, tout en négligeant lui-même de construire des maisons ou dépôts, il propose de surélever les droits sur des biens par lui concédés auparavant.

Un monopole se créerait ainsi tendant à limiter la liberté du commerce au Maroc, ce qui est contraire aux Traités. Si l'on considère, de plus, les difficultés que le Gouvernement Chérifien oppose à tout entretien ou réparation des immeubles, dont se servent les Européens, on en arrive à se convaincre que la question de l'augmentation des biens Habous ne peut être séparée de celle qui touche l'Article XI de la Convention de Madrid. Elles sont, pour ainsi dire, subordonnées l'une à l'autre, et la Commission a lieu de penser que les Représentants ne voudront pas les séparer. Tout au plus pourraient-ils, dans un esprit de déférence, dont ils sont toujours soucieux de donner des preuves, examiner quelques cas isolés pouvant être traités selon leurs mérites.

Paix, &c.

No. 118.

Sir A. Nicolson to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(Received May 19.)

(No. 56.)
My Lord, *Tangier, May 3, 1897.*

I ASKED the French Minister yesterday whether he had any news to give me in regard to the events which had occurred on the Algerian frontier, as I had seen various reports in the public press.

M. de Monbel said that the papers, and especially the Spanish journals, had greatly exaggerated the matter. The facts were that some time ago, owing to continual raids of a minor character, such as cattle-lifting, he had requested the Grand Vizier to instruct the Governor of Oojda to punish the culprits, but when the Governor endeavoured to carry out these orders the tribes resisted by force, and the Governor, being defeated, was compelled to fly into Algerian territory, pursued by the rebellious horsemen. The Governor fled for protection to an outpost of Spahis, and his pursuers, when they saw the French uniform, desisted from their pursuit and returned over the frontier. The Governor-General of Algeria proceeded to the frontier in order to have an interview with the Governor, and also to take the necessary measures for preserving peace on the borders.

The Governor of Oojda had now returned to his seat of government, and, so far as M. de Monbel knew, affairs were quiet; while the Governor-General had disposed along the line of frontier a considerable force of French troops.

M. de Monbel added that these continual disturbances on the frontier were exceedingly annoying, and were aggravated by the inability of the Moorish authorities to keep order among their tribes. The frontier-line was, he considered, a very badly-drawn one, as it was based on no rational plan, and gave frequent opportunities for disputes as to rights of pasturage, &c. The natural boundary-line was the Moulouia, and if that had been adopted as a frontier many causes for disturbance would have been removed.

I did not gather from M. de Monbel that there was any intention on the part of his Government to suggest a rectification of the frontier, or that this matter would be treated at Paris with the Moorish Mission which is shortly proceeding to that capital.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. NICOLSON.

No. 119.

Sir A. Nicolson to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(*Received May* 19.)

(No. 57.)
My Lord, *Tangier, May* 3, 1897.

IT having been brought to my notice that some British-protected persons were alleged to be owning slaves and employing slave labour, I have issued a Circular to British Consular officers in Morocco requesting them to observe the instructions conveyed in the Circular of the late Sir J. Drummond-Hay of the 19th May, 1884, and to report without delay to this Legation any cases which may come to their knowledge of persons enjoying British protection acting contrary to the above-mentioned instructions.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. NICOLSON.

No. 120.

Sir A. Nicolson to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(*Received May* 19.)

(No. 58.)
My Lord, *Tangier, May* 3, 1897.

WITH reference to my despatch No. 53 of the 21st April, I have the honour to transmit translation of a letter which I have received from the Grand Vizier in reply to my communication as to the dismissal of El Meslohi from the post of Shereef of Tamsloht.

The note of the Grand Vizier is not so satisfactory as I had been led to expect, and while its narrative of facts is not very accurate, the terms of the communication are somewhat involved and obscure. In the circumstances it seemed to me advisable to take note of the statement that Hadj El Meslohi has not been dismissed nor any one nominated to fill his place, and at the same time to communicate the views of Her Majesty's Government as conveyed to me in your Lordship's telegram No. 2 of the 18th ultimo.

I trust your Lordship will approve the terms of my note to the Grand Vizier, of which I have the honour to inclose a copy.

The charges formulated against Hadj-el-Meslohi will be carefully inquired into, though they have probably but little foundation. The desire of the Vizier to exhibit Had-el-Meslohi as a man of an arbitrary and rapacious character appears strange to those who are acquainted with his timorous and peaceable disposition.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. NICOLSON.

Inclosure 1 in No. 120.

Cid Ahmed-ben-Moussa to Sir A. Nicolson.

(Translation.) 16 *Kaâda*, 1314 (*April* 19, 1897).

YOUR letter has come to hand, O friend, replying to the affair of Wold-el-Meslohi, concerning whom we have explained to you the harm and confusion which will ensue to the Government if protection be granted to him, or if he be confirmed in his office of Shereef, whereby the Government of Great Britain would be deviating from its intentions and resolves towards this noble Government (may God exalt it!), and that the latter wish to appoint some one to supersede him, &c. And you state, O friend, that this has troubled you, and that you have gathered from it what is equivalent to a contradiction to what has been previously said on his account, &c. We took cognizance of all this after having communicated the same to His Majesty (the victorious in God), and he has ordered me to reply to you, O intelligent one, that that which we have mentioned to you about the various embarrassments which will result to the Government through this man being confirmed in his office, and through having protection granted to him, is what we have already many times before explained to you, both verbally and in writing, and neither contradition nor gainsaying exist in the things discussed or under discussion between us, who are the two intermediaries of two powerful Governments, and who follow the path of sincerity and the footsteps of truth. Thus, when your reply came, wherein you declined steadfastly to withdraw either his protection or the confirmation of his Shereefian office, a reply was sent to you that as regards the granting of protection to him it may be feasible, and that the Government will avert their eyes from all the harm arising therefrom, but that the granting of his Shereefian office is out of the question; moreover, you are not unaware, O intelligent one, that the association of these two things is impossible, and cannot be thought of at all, as the control of the duties and interests of the Zaweeya devolve exclusively upon the Government, who are responsible to their religion and to the people. In order to explain to you, O friend, a part of the claims against him, I will tell you by way of a story that his sister, who is of his own flesh and blood, ceases not complaining to the Court of his having deprived her of her father's inheritance, consisting of property, &c., and there was a question of going to Shrâa, but he persistently refused, saying that he would not go to law with her except at Tangier, and his nephews referred their claims against him to the authorities because he had despoiled them of their properties, and because he had not devoted any part of the revenues accruing from them to the service of the Zaweeya, and because he had seized the revenues of certain saints, although in this respect all Shereefs are on an equal footing. He has despoiled his cousins of a number of their private properties in a tyrannical and arbitrary manner, besides laying hands on the moneys of the Governors deposited in the tomb of the Saint Moulai Ibraheem Ahmed, known as "the guardian of the sacred trusts," in accordance with the Memorandum inclosed herein, which gives in detail the dues of the Zaweeya and the Shereefs claimed from him, and how many are the other cases against him! And how is it to be imagined, O friend, that such a man should remain in tenure of such a position over which the hand of the Government is not extended for the purpose of settling claims compulsorily or voluntarily, but the Government has as yet neither nominated nor dismissed, but is exchanging communications called for by necessity in conformity with what has preceded. Therefore, the Government still exerts itself towards and solicits the removal of this harm, which is inseparable from the promotion of frankness and sincerity between the two Governments, by your kindly help and care, if it please God, and we are, as you know, still steadfast in our sincerity of friendship, &c.

(Signed) AHMED-BEN-MOUSSA.

Inclosure 2 in No. 120.

Sir A. Nicolson to Cid Ahmed-ben-Moussa.

(After compliments,) *Tangier, May* 3, 1897.

I HAVE received the communication, O friend, which you addressed to me on the 16 Kaâda, 1314 (19th April, 1897), regarding Hadj-el-Meslohi, Shereef of Tamsloht, and I take note of the declaration which you make that the Moorish Government has

neither nominated another to the post of Shereef, nor dismissed Hadj-el-Meslohi. I am glad to hear of this, as I must tell you that when Hadj Mohamed Lebady officially informed me that the Government had appointed other than Meslohi, I was forced to communicate this to my Government, and they expressed great surprise at this action of the Moorish Government, and commissioned me to inform you, O friend, that they were unable to admit that such proceedings could be taken against a person under British protection, without good reasons being given, and until the consent of my Government had been obtained.

I will now inform my Government that no action has been taken.

You send me several complaints against Hadj-el-Meslohi, and due and searching inquiry will be made into these matters; and I will later inform you of the result of these inquiries.

You may rest assured, O friend, that in all matters between our two Governments I will endeavour to promote that friendship and frankness which equally with you it is my earnest desire to see maintained, and may you rest in peace and prosperity.

(Signed) A. NICOLSON.

No. 121.

Sir A. Nicolson to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(*Received May* 19.)

(No. 59.)

My Lord, *Tangier, May* 4, 1897.

WITH reference to my despatch No. 51 of the 16th ultimo, relative to the question of debts due to British merchants at Saffi, I have the honour to state that, having received a somewhat unsatisfactory communication from the Grand Vizier on the subject, I requested Her Majesty's Consul at Dar-al-Baida to furnish me with a further report as to what progress was being made at Saffi towards the collection of debts.

Mr. Maclean is, I regret to say, unable to report any progress at all, and it is clear from the correspondence which he has forwarded to me from Saffi that the Governors of the districts are, as Mr. Maclean expresses it, "mulcting the debtors of all they possess, and placing every obstacle in the way of creditors." The debts are mostly outstanding so long ago as 1893 and 1894, and it is feared that some of the merchants will soon find themselves in a critical financial position.

I have, therefore, addressed another communication to the Grand Vizier, pointing out to him that his orders have been disregarded by the provincial officials, and suggesting that he should send a functionary into the several districts, who, in conjunction with the British Vice-Consul at Saffi, should visit the Kaïds and obtain a settlement, or, in any case, a part settlement of the debts, in a just and equitable manner.

This is the only course which appears to be left, and I have suggested the co-operation of the Vice-Consul as a check on any unjust and extortionate treatment, and also because he is well acquainted with the Kaïds, and is also himself a sufferer from the present condition of affairs.

I trust your Lordship will approve of this course, and I hope that the Vizier will concur in it.

I have, &c.

(Signed) A. NICOLSON.

No. 122.

Sir A. Nicolson to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(*Received May* 19.)

(No. 60.)

My Lord, *Tangier, May* 5, 1897.

WITH reference to my despatch No. 52 of the 16th April, I have the honour to report that Mr. Irwin proceeded to Alcazar to assist at the inquiry into the assault committed on the British subject Mr. Carleton. Soon after the opening of the inquiry, Mr. Irwin informed the Ameen, who was conducting the investigation on behalf of the

Government, that he wished to produce as witnesses the Spanish Consular Agent and some respectable Jewish merchants.

The Ameen expressed doubts as to whether such evidence could be admitted, as by his orders from Court, all evidence was to be confirmed by the Kadi. The latter was consulted, and stated that he could not confirm Christian or Jewish evidence, and the Ameen therefore refused to receive it.

Mr. Irwin referred the matter to me, and I instructed him to repeat his request to the Ameen, and to inform this official that by the terms of the letter of the Vizier to me, the evidence of all the inhabitants was to be taken who had cognizance of the affair. I sent the letter of the Vizier to Mr. Irwin, and recommended him to show it to the Ameen. I also pointed out that an inquiry in which the evidence was to come only from one class of the community, would be a futile one, and I instructed Mr. Irwin, in case the Ameen should persist in his refusal to admit the evidence, to return at once to Tangier.

The Ameen maintained his objections, and Mr. Irwin consequently has returned to Tangier. I beg leave to transmit copy of a letter which I have addressed to the Grand Vizier, and I will inform your Lordship of the reply which his Excellency may send me. Mr. Irwin has made a full report on the proceedings, with copies of the evidence which had been taken so far. I need not trouble your Lordship with copies of these documents, as the inquiry had only reached its initial stages. The refusal to accept Christian or Jewish evidence is very characteristic.

I trust your Lordship will approve of my having recalled Mr. Irwin, as in the circumstances his continued presence at the inquiry would have been, I think, most undesirable.

I have, &c.

(Signed) A. NICOLSON.

Inclosure in No. 122.

Sir A. Nicolson to Cid Ahmed-ben-Moussa. .

(After compliments.) *Tangier, May* 4, 1897.

IN accordance with the arrangement which was arrived at, Mr. Irwin, the interpreter of this Legation, went to Alcazar so soon as he was apprised of the arrival there of the Ameen and two Adools, whom your Excellency ordered from Rabat to undertake an inquiry into the assault committed on Mr. Carleton.

As your Excellency properly expressed it in the note which you addressed to me, the evidence of all the inhabitants of the place who had cognizance of the affair was to be taken, and it was necessary, in the interests of justice, that a thorough and impartial inquiry should be made.

Mr. Irwin was desirous of calling, among other witnesses, a Spanish resident, and also some of the most respectable Jewish merchants of the place, all of whom were in a position to give important and trustworthy evidence. To his surprise, he learnt from the Ameen that their evidence could not be admitted, on the ground that in the orders received from Court it was stated that all evidence must be confirmed by the Cadi, and the Cadi declined to confirm Christian or Jewish evidence as being contrary to religion.

Mr. Irwin at once referred this point to me, and I instructed him to insist on all evidence being taken, as it was in accordance with justice and also with your Excellency's wishes as conveyed to me.

The Ameen, however, persisted in saying that his orders precluded him from admitting Christian and Jewish evidence in consequence of the confirmation of the Cadi, and I therefore instructed Mr. Irwin to withdraw from an inquiry which would be, in the circumstances, futile, and not one which would in any way meet the ends of justice. Mr. Irwin has in consequence returned to Tangier.

I have afforded every opportunity of a thorough investigation of the case, feeling sure that it would but prove the character of the assault and misconduct of Kaïd Khalkhali. My hopes of a fair and proper inquiry have been disappointed, and I need scarcely point out to your Excellency the injustice of limiting the witnesses to one class of the community and excluding those who were able to give independent and unbiassed evidence.

I have received from Mr. Irwin some details of the manner in which Kaïd Khalkhali endeavoured to procnre evidence in his favour; but I do not think it necessary to enter into that part of the question. The plain facts remain, that an official deputed by the Government to inquire into a charge against a Government official, declined to admit evidence offered by parties whose testimony is of equal value and weight with that of those which he was ready to accept.

I now trust that your Excellency, on the strength of the documents which I sent you in my note of the 28th Ramadan (2nd March), will cause such punishment to be inflicted on Kaïd Khalkhali as is justified by his conduct during the course of this affair, and which I have from time to time brought to your notice, and I shall be glad to hear from you of the measures which you propose to adopt; and may you rest in peace and prosperity.

(Signed) A. NICOLSON.

No. 123.

Sir A. Nicolson to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(*Received May* 19.)

(No. 62.)

My Lord, *Tangier, May* 8, 1897.

I HAVE the honour to transmit translation of a letter which I have received from the Grand Vizier, conveying the desire of the Sultan to send a Special Mission to England to offer his congratulations to Her Majesty the Queen.

The Mission would consist of the same functionaries as those who are going to Paris, with the exception of the interpreter, and a list of whom was transmitted in my despatch No. 61 of the 5th May.

The French Minister tells me that he expects the Mission will embark at Mazagan on the French cruiser on the 15th instant, and, after a stay of two or three days here, will reach Marseilles on the 21st, and Paris on the 23rd May. He allows eight days for rest and official visits, and fifteen days for the business the Mission may have to transact; and with five days for farewell visits he considers the Mission would be free to depart for London about the 20th June. M. de Monbel added that if this date would be in any way inconvenient, he had little doubt but that arrangements could be made for prolonging the stay of the Mission in France till the end of June.

I shall have an opportunity of seeing the Ambassador before he leaves for France, and he may be able to give me some more definite news as to his movements.

With regard to the conveyance of the horses and presents to London, I trust I shall be able to arrange with an English line of steamers on this point.

I should be glad to know if your Lordship would wish Mr. Irwin, interpreter to this Legation, to be present in London during the stay of the Mission.

I will not send an official reply to the note of the Grand Vizier until I hear from your Lordship.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. NICOLSON.

Inclosure in No. 123.

Hamed-ben-Moussa-ben-Hamed to Sir A. Nicolson.

(Translation.)

PRAISE is to God alone; and nothing is everlasting save His kingdom.

The friend, the intelligent, the giver of good counsel, he who strives for good between the two friendly nations, the Minister of Her esteemed Majesty the Queen of Great Britain and Empress of India, the respected cavalier Sir Arthur Nicolson, after inquiring after you and wishing you lasting welfare, His Majesty—God assist him—has had the intention since about two years to send an Ambassador from His Shereefian Majesty to Great Britain with the object of renewing the covenants of friendship, and to revive the marks of affection between the two Powers. And now His Shereefian Majesty—God exalt him—has heard that Her Majesty the Queen of Great Britain intends to hold a jubilee of rejoicing for the length of her reign in peace and health. This has strengthened his resolve—may God assist him—to hasten the dispatch of the said Ambassador to be a Deputy of His Shereefian Majesty in conveying His Shereefian Majesty's congratulations to Her Majesty on the event, and to be present

at the time of her rejoicings, by reason of the particular friendship inherited from his noble ancestors towards Great Britain, and the necessity of His Majesty adding his congratulations and showing his joy at her rejoicings. And as the appointment of our brother Cid Mehemmed as Ambassador to France was already made, he would not consent to appoint any one more distant from His Shereefian Majesty, and he has selected him for this Mission also, as an attention to Her Majesty, and in greater honour of her position. He is to proceed in an English frigate after completing his Mission in France. Then when he returns from London and lands at Tangier, I should wish you to detain the frigate there one day so that he may re-embark with his suite and be taken to Mazagan. As to the ten horses and cases of presents prepared for Her Majesty the Queen of Great Britain, I would wish that an English steamer should embark them with those in charge of the horses at Mazagan on the 10th Moharram proximo, if God wills; and that they be disembarked in a secret place in the part of London which the Ambassador will first enter on his arrival, after leaving France that they may go with him to Her glorious Majesty. And the Ambassador has been instructed, when he reaches Tangier two days after the feast of Bairam—if God wills—to meet you and converse with you about this, and to consult with you as to the manner of informing you from Paris, by telegraph, through your Ambassador there, in order that the English frigate may be ready to embark him on the day he is leaving France. In the margin* is the list of the suite of the Ambassador; the number of servants will be told you by the Ambassador when he reaches Tangier, if God wills.

May you continue well and happy, in peace and gladness.

Finished 26th Kaada, 1314 (29th April, 1897).

(Signed) HAMED-BEN-MOUSSA-BEN-HAMED.

No. 124.

Consul-General Hay Newton to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(*Received May* 20.)

(No. 5. Confidential.)

My Lord, *Algiers, May* 15, 1897.

WITH reference to my despatch No. 4 of the 7th instant, I have the honour to transmit herewith further articles from different newspapers, showing the disturbed state at present existing on the Morocco frontier, and which appears to have become more accentuated since the recent visit of the Governor-General.

I have the honour, also, to transmit herewith a translation of an article from a Spanish paper bearing on the same subject.

I have, &c.
(Signed) F. HAY NEWTON.

Inclosure 1 in No. 124.

Newspaper Extracts.

"*Écho d'Oran,*" *May* 9, 1897.

JE suis rentré hier soir à 8 heures de Tekbalet où je m'étais rendu.

La situation à notre frontière prend des proportions alarmantes, et l'avis général est qu'il ne se passera pas de longs jours sans que nous ayons à signaler de sérieux événements.

* The Ambassador our brother, the Fkih Cid Mehemmed.
His friend the Fkih, Secretary Cid Mohammed-ben-Sliman.
The interpreter, the Taleb Zobeir Skeerj.
The Ameen Hadj Mohammed-ben-Kassim, Gancon the Fasi.
Six Governors.
The time-keeper.
The barber.
The butcher and two cooks.
Groom.

Les esprits chez nos voisins sont, en effet, très surexcités, au point qu'ils en arrivent à se ruer sur nos tribus qu'ils ne se font point scrupule de razzier.

Les insurgés se disposent à fondre sur les Zkara, la seule tribu alliée à l'Amel; ils sont résolus à attaquer Oudjda, la résidence de ce Chef dont ils ont juré d'avoir la tête.

On s'attend pour aujourd'hui ou demain à un soulèvement général de tous les insurgés contre l'Amel.

Toutes les dispositions sont prises par les autorités militaires Françaises afin d'empêcher et réprimer au besoin toute violation nouvelle de notre territoire, ce qui est à redouter, car l'Amel a l'intention de se réfugier sur notre territoire où les insurgés pourraient bien le suivre.

"*Petit Fanal*" (*Oran*), *May* 9, 1897.

Hier soir est arrivé par le train d'Alger, le Général Larchey, commandant le 19e Corps d'Armée, qui vient à Oran passer l'inspection des officiers de toutes les armes de la division proposés pour l'avancement.

Cet Officier Général qui est descendu à la Division, est accompagné de son Officier d'Ordonnance et d'un Lieutenant de l'armée Suédoise, autorisé par le Gouvernement à faire un stage à l'État-Major du 19e Corps.

M. le Préfet et le Général Boitard accompagné de ses Officiers d'Ordonnance s'étaient rendus à la gare.

Le Général quittera Oran demain matin par le train de 9·45.

Il nous revient, de source absolument autorisée, que l'annexion d'Oudjda serait décidée en principe et qu'à une date qui ne serait pas très éloignée, notre frontière serait reculée jusqu'à la Moulouïa.

Ce serait là, évidemment, une excellente mesure tant pour la pacification définitive de la région du Kiss que pour la mise en valeur de ces riches territoires.

Il est à désirer qu'on ne tarde pas davantage à l'appliquer.

"*Dépêche Algérienne*," *May* 12, 1897.

La situation à la frontière reste menaçante et les autorités militaires prennent toutes les précautions pour parer à toute éventualité.

Deux compagnies de Zouaves du 2e Régiment, en garnison à El-Aricha, ont reçu l'ordre de se transporter à Marnia, pour renforcer le détachement qui occupe ce poste.

On dit, sous réserves, que l'annexion d'Oudjda serait décidée en principe et qu'à une date qui ne serait pas très éloignée, notre frontière serait reculée jusqu'à la Moulouïa. La confirmation de cette nouvelle est impatiemment attendue par toute la région, intéressée au retour au calme.

"*Écho d'Oran*," *May* 13, 1897.

J'arrive de la frontière où j'étais en observation depuis deux jours.

La situation empire de jour en jour; les insurgés, certains de l'impunité, continuent avec une audace surprenante la série de leurs incursions chez nous.

Ils ont tenté encore de razzier un douar des Beni-Ouassine, et ils en arriveront, si on ne prend pas des mesures radicales, à de regrettables extrémités.

Aujourd'hui, en effet, les Marocains pillent nos douars, demain ils massacreront notre cavalerie; il sera bien temps alors d'ordonner des mesures qui auraient dû être prescrites dès leur première incursion chez nous!

En somme, les Marocains, fatigués des vexations qu'on leur impose, ne demandent qu'à voir la France ordonner une action énergique et s'emparer du territoire qui s'étend jusqu'à Oudjda, afin d'être délivrés du joug odieux qui les étreint.

Le Général Larchey, commandant le 19e Corps, vient d'arriver ici, appelé par les événements sérieux que je vous ai signalés.

Il se rendra demain à la frontière.

"*Dépêche Algérienne*," *May* 15, 1897.

Sur les ordres du Ministre de la Guerre, 143 hommes du 2e escadron du 2e Chasseurs d'Afrique, commandés par le Capitaine Jalabert et les Lieutenants Risch, Yvars, Valée, partiront demain à 4 heures par étapes forcées, pour la frontière, par Lourmel, Pont-de-l'Isser, Tlemcen, Marnia. Il est possible que ces troupes prennent le train en route.

Ce matin, à la première heure, les armuriers civils d'Oran étaient réquisitionnés pour affuter les sabres de la cavalerie, tout travail cessant. Cette mesure inopinée a provoqué un certain émoi dans la population; beaucoup de personnes pensaient à une mobilisation générale.

Cette version a d'autant plus de crédit que les Zouaves et les autres troupes de la garnison ont reçu leurs effets de première tenue et ils sont prêts à marcher. Il est également possible que l'artillerie, actuellement à l'école à feu à Lourmel, parte pour la frontière.

On dit en outre, que les 11e et 12e Compagnies du 3e Bataillon du 1er Zouaves sont prêtes à partir.

La situation est, paraît-il, très grave sur la frontière et on parle, comme possible, d'une nouvelle incursion. On dit qu'Oudjda a été pris par les insurgés et que l'Amel serait en fuite. Mais nous ne reproduisons ces propos que sous toutes réserves.

Inclosure 2 in No. 124.

Extract from the "Heraldo de Madrid" of May 7, 1897.

(Translation.)

THE events of the Algerian frontier deserve some attention on the part of Spain, although she has so much to think of with regard to matters of such magnitude as the wars of Cuba and the Philippine Islands. We must not forget that Ujda is a short distance from Mellila and the Zaffarine Islands, and that it is the only doorway (or passage) of any invasion of Morocco by France.

For many years that Power has tried to oblige the Empire to rectify the frontier, which, if it were carried out, would put into its hands the lower course of the Moulaya, or, what comes to the same, the way to Fey by Tesa.

In order to attain its end it has been at work without ceasing in the Court of the Sultan, and it has sought friends amongst the frontier Kabyles. It possesses a good knowledge of the country, and, if it were not that the question of the Moroccan frontier is intimately connected with the dominion of the Mediterranean, France would have resolved it in its favour a long time ago.

But, if the French were masters of Moulaya, they would soon be masters of all the Riff country, and the Sultan would remain reduced to the rank of a Vassal Prince of his Algerian neighbours. In a word, such a possession would put in the hands of the Republic the fate of the Empire, and as it does not suit England, Italy, nor any of the Great European Powers that such would come to pass, the ambition of France finds that an invincible obstacle occurs in these concurrent interests, energetically supported by powerful armies and fleets.

The present situation of Europe might furnish the opportunity it is seeking, considering that these nations have plenty to do in expecting the results of the Eastern conflict.

Spain, which is the most directly threatened, has all its forces engaged in two great colonial wars, and, as much for this reason as for its well-known indifference concerning whatever takes place outside its territory, it cannot be looked upon as an enemy to be feared nor even as an enemy at all. It is for this reason that what is taking place on the Morocco-Algerian frontier is not without causing us some anxiety. The dangerous opportunity of the skirmishes between the Spahis and the Kabyles of the neighbourhood of Oudjda is bringing to our mind suspicions which it would be unjust to attribute to malice, but which are fully justified by the history of frontier conflicts between civilized nations and semi-barbarians. It always happens that the former, alleging necessities for their defence and tranquillity, declare themselves masters of the part of the country which suits them.

To ourselves, who hold possessions in the Riffan littoral, the events that occur in Oudjda must not be indifferent. Telegrams of this day say that the consequences may

be grave. It would be well, if it should happen to be so, that we should not be found unprepared. We suppose that our Representative in Tangier will keep the Government well informed of whatever takes place.

No. 125.

Sir E. Monson to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(*Received May* 21.)

(No. 347.)
My Lord, *Paris, May* 19, 1897.

I HAVE the honour to transmit herewith to your Lordship, a despatch addressed to me by Lieutenant-Colonel Dawson, respecting the disturbances in the Oudjda district of Morocco.

I have, &c.
(Signed) EDMUND MONSON.

Inclosure in No. 125.

Lieutenant-Colonel Dawson to Sir E. Monson.

(No. 19.)
Sir, *Paris, May* 18, 1897.

THE periodical disturbances in the Oudjda district of Morocco near the Algerian frontier seem to be attracting more attention this year in France than usual.

General Larchey, commanding the 19th Corps, has lately been to Marnia to satisfy himself as to the detachments echelonned along the frontier, and he was there met and saluted by the Amel or Governor of Oudjda.

It seems that the troubles are local, the French Algerian tribes not being in any way mixed up in them.

It is rumoured that the Morocco tribes all along the frontier are in revolt against the Amel, and special measures of protection have been taken by the French.

Native contingents from the Marnia district watch the frontier. These contingents are supported at Marnia by Spahis from the smalas of Chembaas and Sidi-Meljahed, and by two squadrons of Chasseurs d'Afrique from the garrison of Tiemcen. The garrison of Marnia had already been reinforced by a detachment of Zouaves and a battalion from El Aricha.

Till now nothing serious has happened. The contingents have only had to stop the rebels, who, after beating the Amel's troops, pursued them across the frontier. These rebels are kindly received and disarmed, or else turned back at once across the frontier. According to the latest news the whole Ben Hamlil tribe had fled to the Marnia district, but no really authentic information seems to be to hand. Sooner or later it seems quite possible that some unimportant fighting may take place in the district.

With regard to Tunis, the three original military commands, Tunis, Sfax, and Gabes, have recently been reduced to two. Sfax has been suppressed, and its territory incorporated with that of Gabes.

The Commandant at Gabes is in future to be a "Général de Brigade" instead of a Colonel.

The Cavalry Brigade of Tunis is transferred from Sfax to Tunis as a quarter.

I have, &c.
(Signed) DOUGLAS DAWSON, *Lieutenant-Colonel, Military Attaché.*

No. 126.

Sir A. Nicolson to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(*Received May* 22.)

(No. 65.)
My Lord, *Tangier, May* 14, 1897.

THE Moorish authorities have, I am told, decided to build a stone inclosure on the Island of Perejil to serve as a prison. There will also be a guard-house at each corner of the inclosure, as well as two batteries.

I have not been informed as to the armament of the batteries. The Sultan's deputy here, as well as the Governor of the town and one or two other high officers, visited the island last week, and it is reported that the works will be shortly commenced.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. NICOLSON.

No. 127.

Sir A. Nicolson to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(*Received May* 22.)

(No. 66. Most Confidential.)
My Lord, *Tangier, May* 16, 1897.

I HAVE received private, and, I think, trustworthy, information from the Court in regard to the proposals which the Moorish Special Mission to Paris has been instructed to lay before the French Government.

I am told that, in regard to Tuat, the Moorish Ambassador is to endeavour to obtain an engagement from the French Government that France will not occupy that oasis; and that, if this engagement is given, the Moorish Government will be ready to permit the French authorities to run a railway through Tuat to Timbuctoo, and also a telegraph line on paying the Moorish Government a royalty for these undertakings.

The Mission is further instructed to request the French Government to withdraw the French Military Mission at the Moorish Court, and also the French Consul from Fez. The Mission is also to endeavour to induce the French Government to abolish the system of protection of Moorish subjects. Should the Mission succeed in obtaining satisfactory replies on the above points, the Vizier has authorized it to give full assurances of the readiness of the Moorish Government to be guided in all matters entirely by the advice of the French Government, who will be regarded as the chief friends of Morocco.

I should think that there would be little difficulty in meeting the wishes of the Moorish Government in respect to the engagement as to Tuat, as well as to the recall of the Military Mission and Consul. It is generally believed that the chief object of the acquisition of Tuat is to complete the railway extension, and if this can be secured without disturbing the fiction of Moorish sovereignty over the district, and thereby avoiding the possibility of the question of territorial integrity being raised, the actual occupation might be abandoned. The recall of the Military Mission might also possibly meet with no opposition. I may state, indeed, that I believe its departure would not be unwelcome either to the French Legation or to the French Agent with the Court.

I do not further believe that the French Legation, at any rate, would be disposed to recommend that serious objection should be raised to the recall of the French Consul from Fez, if such recall were likely to assist towards the realization of larger aims. As to protection, I have little doubt that general assurances could be given which would be considered sufficiently satisfactory. If, therefore, the proposals of the Moorish Government were, in the main, accepted, the position which the French Government would assume in the Council Chamber of the Moorish Government would be very predominant, though perhaps not ostensible, and would probably amply recompense it for the concessions which were made.

I am also told that the Mission will propose to Her Majesty's Government that the British Vice-Consul should be removed from Fez, and that a royalty should be paid for the Eastern Telegraph cable between Gibraltar and Tangier.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. NICOLSON.

No. 128.

The Marquess of Salisbury to Sir A. Nicolson.

(No. 57.)
Sir, *Foreign Office, May* 25, 1897.

I HAVE received your despatch No. 59 of the 4th instant respecting the question of the debts due to British merchants at Saffi.

I approve the course which you have adopted with a view to a settlement of the matter.

I am, &c.
(Signed) SALISBURY.

No. 129.

The Marquess of Salisbury to Sir A. Nicolson.

(No. 58.)
Sir, *Foreign Office, May* 25, 1897.

I HAVE received your despatch No. 60 of the 5th instant, reporting the refusal of the Ameen at Alcazar to accept the evidence of Christian or Jewish witnesses in the case of the assault committed on Mr. Carleton.

The course which you have taken in recalling Mr. Irwin, and in addressing a note to the Grand Vizier, in which you call for the punishment of Kaïd Khalkhali, is approved.

I am, &c.
(Signed) SALISBURY.

No. 130.

The Marquess of Salisbury to Sir A. Nicolson.

(No. 59.)
Sir, *Foreign Office, May* 25, 1897.

I HAVE received your despatch No. 58 of the 3rd instant, inclosing further correspondence with the Grand Vizier as to the threatened dismissal of El Meslohi from the post of the Shereef of Tamsloht.

I approve the terms of the note which you have addressed to the Grand Vizier on the subject.

I am, &c.
(Signed) SALISBURY.

No. 131.

The Marquess of Salisbury to Sir A. Nicolson.

(No. 60.)
Sir, *Foreign Office, May* 25, 1897.

I HAVE received your despatch No. 55 of the 30th ultimo, respecting the proposed increase of rents on Government property in Morocco.

I approve the terms of the note which you and your colleagues have addressed to Hadj Abdulkerim Brisha on the subject.

I am, &c.
(Signed) SALISBURY.

No. 132.

The Marquess of Salisbury to Sir A. Nicolson.

(No. 61.)
Sir, *Foreign Office, May* 25, 1897.

I HAVE received your despatch No. 57 of the 3rd instant, on the subject of slave-owning and slave-hiring by British protected persons in Morocco, and I approve of your having drawn the attention of the British Consular officers to the instructions on this subject contained in the late Sir J. Drummond-Hay's Circular on the 19th May, 1884.

I am, &c.
(Signed) SALISBURY.

No. 133.

Mr. White to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(Received May 26.)

(No. 17.)
(Telegraphic.) P. *Tangier, May* 26, 1897.

SIR A. NICOLSON'S despatch No. 62 of the 8th May.

I venture to suggest that, on account of there being no steamer from Gibraltar between the 30th May and 9th June, Mr. Irwin should be instructed to start for London by steamer leaving on the 30th May, so as to have time to see to arrangements before Moorish Mission arrives.

No. 134.

Sir A. Nicolson to the Marquess of Salisbury—(Received May 28.)

(No. 68.)
My Lord, *Tangier, May* 20, 1897.

WITH reference to your Lordship's despatch No. 50 of the 11th instant, relative to the appointment of Semsars in Morocco, I have the honour to state that no foreign Representative here interprets the Treaty of Madrid as conferring the right of foreign merchants to have two Semsars in each port. A merchant or a commercial firm which has a properly-established branch establishment at a port other than the ports where two Semsars have actually been granted, would be entitled to additional Semsars at the aforesaid port.

During my residence in Tangier I have had no complaints in regard to Mokhalats of the nature referred to in the letter from the Chamber of Commerce, and I believe they are found to be a very useful class of agents.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. NICOLSON.

No. 135.

The Marquess of Salisbury to Sir A. Nicolson.

(No. 63.)
Sir, *Foreign Office, May* 28, 1897.

WITH reference to my despatch No. 43 of the 26th ultimo, respecting the alleged importation into Morocco through Alhucemas of rifles and ammunition from Gibraltar, I transmit to you a copy of a letter from the Colonial Office,* inclosing a despatch from the Governor of Gibraltar on the subject, from which it appears that the report is incorrect.

I shall be obliged if you will communicate to the Government of Morocco the substance of Sir R. Biddulph's despatch.

I am, &c.
(Signed) SALISBURY.

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* No. 116.

No. 136.

Sir E. Monson to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(Received May 29.)

(No. 360.)
My Lord, *Paris, May 26, 1897.*

I HAVE the honour to transmit herewith to your Lordship a despatch which has been addressed to me by the Military Attaché to this Embassy respecting troubles on the Algiers-Morocco frontier, and the consequent location of French troops.

I have, &c.
(Signed) EDMUND MONSON.

Inclosure in No. 136.

Lieutenant-Colonel Dawson to Sir E. Monson.

(No. 21.)
Sir, *Paris, May 25, 1897.*

REFERRING to my despatch No. 19 of 1897, I have the honour herewith to forward your Excellency, for the information of the Secretary of State for War, some further particulars which have since come to hand regarding the troubles on the Algiers-Morocco frontier.

It is reported that on the 17th instant a messenger arrived at Marnia from Marakech, carrying despatches to the Amel from the Sultan to announce that reinforcements were being sent to him. It is possible that on their arrival an attack may be made on the insurgents who have established a camp at Hamra.

It is reported that on the 16th the insurgents had decided to attack the Zkara tribe, the only one remaining faithful to the Amel: but no fight took place, as the Zkara raised their camp and fled to French territory in the district of Ouled Nahar. This news was confirmed at the Council of Ministers on the 18th.

It is reported that the Mussulman population is much excited over events in Crete and Thessaly, especially at the Turkish successes in the latter. Whether these events are purposely exaggerated here, just at the time of the visit of the Morocco Mission to Paris, with a view perhaps to deriving some ultimate advantage, remains to be seen.

It is, however, certain that the Governor-General and the Commandant of the 19th Corps recently had a meeting at Lallah-Maghnia, close to the frontier, to discuss the situation.

As a result of this meeting, on the 15th three companies of the 2nd Tirailleurs, companies 160 strong, left Mostaganem for the frontier; while on the 18th 143 men of the 2nd Chasseurs in garrison at Oran left for the same destination.

Besides these reinforcements, Colonel Delanneau, in command of the so-called "Colonne Marocaine," is said to have under his command the following force, distributed on the 17th instant, as follows:—

At Tekbalet the 2nd squadron of Chasseurs, part of the 5th, and a company of Zouaves.

At Tenietramia Major Blachas has three companies echelonned between Tenietramia and Mechamiche, a squadron of the 2nd Spahis, and the native contingents of Beni-bou-Saïd.

A mountain battery is at Mechamiche, and a native contingent at Jougelbram.

The 1st company of Tirailleurs, with head-quarters of the regiment, is 3 kilom. north of Lilla-Hacha; the 2nd company 2 kilom. north-east of the preceding one; and the 3rd at Memchet-Kiss.

Two torpedo-boats of the "defense mobile d'Algerie" have been asked for in order to cruise off Cape Milonia, situated between Melilla and the Zapharine Islands.

These are the positions occupied along the frontier as reported by the military press.

At the Council of Ministers on the 18th instant, the War Minister read out a telegram from the General Commanding the 19th Corps, stating that the Zekkara tribe had come in to Bouihi and laid down their arms to the troops stationed there. This would appear to confirm to a certain degree the telegrams published by the press.

I have, &c.
(Signed) DOUGLAS DAWSON, *Lieutenant-Colonel, Military Attaché.*

No. 137.

Foreign Office to London Chamber of Commerce.

Sir, *Foreign Office, May 31, 1897.*

WITH reference to my letter of the 11th instant, I am directed by the Marquess of Salisbury to inform you that Her Majesty's Minister at Tangier has reported that no foreign Representative there interprets the Treaty of Madrid as conferring the right of foriegn merchants to have two Semsars in each port. A merchant or a commercial firm which has a properly established branch establishment at a port other than the ports where two Semsars have actually been granted would be entitled to additional Semsars at the aforesaid port.

Sir A. Nicolson adds that, during his residence in Tangier, he has had no complaints in regard to "Mokhalats" of the nature referred to in your letter of the 7th instant, and he believes that they are found to be a very useful class of agents.

I am, &c.
(Signed) T. H. SANDERSON

No. 138.

Sir E. Monson to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(Received June 5.)

(No. 384.)
My Lord, *Paris, June 4, 1897.*

I HAVE had the honour more than once to call your Lordship's attention to the troubles which have broken out on the Franco-Moorish frontier in the neighbourhood of Oujda, caused by the endeavours of the Moorish Governor of that town to raise from the tribesmen a sum sufficient to liquidate the claims of France to an indemnity for depredations and raids across the border, amounting, it is stated, to 300,000 fr. (12,000*l.*)

The current number of the "Questions Diplomatiques et Coloniales" publishes a violent attack on the French Government for not insisting on the immediate payment of this indemnity; for not taking advantage of the presence here of the Moorish Embassy to demand a settlement of the claim; and for allowing the "passing impression" of the stay of the Mission in Paris to be effaced by their subsequent visit to London.

There appears, moreover, to be some foundation for the rumour that the Turkish successes in Greece have caused a certain movement amongst the Mussulman population in Oran and Tunis, which at present has taken the shape of an anti-Semitic agitation; but "piller les Juifs c'est piller les commerçants," and the French colonists in Oran are afraid of further outrages.

The Moorish caravans, which at this season of the year generally visit Tlemcen and Lalla Marnia for trading purposes, have returned on finding the frontier occupied by troops, and the traders of the Algerian frontier are suffering in consequence; and, after instancing various cases of distress, the article ends up by declaring that the real cause of the "do-nothing" policy is the rivalry which exists between the Ministry for Foreign Affairs and M. Cambon, the Governor-General of Algeria.

I have, &c.
(Signed) EDMUND MONSON.

No. 139.

Mr. White to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(*Received June* 21.)

(No. 72.)

My Lord, *Tangier, June* 14, 1897.

WITH reference to your Lordship's despatch No. 56 of the 20th ultimo regarding the revolt of some of the Moorish tribes on the Algerian frontier against the Basha of Oujda and the visit of the Governor-General of Algeria to the frontier, I have the honour to report that I learn from a confidential source that the news of these disturbances has produced some effect at the Shereefian Court, and that the Sultan has ordered Sid Hadj Abdeselam-el-Amrani to proceed to Fez and Oujda, furnishing him with letters to several of the tribes on the road, ordering them to join him, so that he may, on arrival at the scene of the disturbances, have a sufficient force to enable him to punish the tribes that have revolted against their Governor.

I have, &c.

(Signed) HERBERT E. WHITE.

No. 140.

Mr. White to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(*Received June* 25.)

(No. 79.)

My Lord, *Tangier, June* 19, 1897.

WITH reference to your Lordship's despatch No. 63 of the 28th ultimo respecting the alleged importation into Morocco, through Alhucenas, of rifles and ammunition from Gibraltar, I have the honour to transmit herewith translation of the letter I have addressed Sid Hadj Mohammed Lebady, embodying the substance of Sir R. Biddulph's despatch to the Colonial Office.

I have, &c.

(Signed) HERBERT E. WHITE.

Inclosure in No. 140.

Mr. White to Hadj Mohammed Lebady.

(Translation.)

(After compliments.) *Tangier, June* 19, 1897.

SIR A. NICOLSON did not fail to communicate to Her Majesty's Government the substance of what your Excellency told him regarding the alleged shipment of arms and ammunition from Gibraltar to the Riff tribes, through Alhucenas, and Her Majesty's Government having made inquiry into the matter have instructed me to inform your Excellency that they are of opinion that the reports that have reached you must be incorrect, for there is no stock of rifles or ammunition in Gibraltar from which persons can make purchases for shipment to Morocco, as alleged. The import of arms and ammunition into Gibraltar, as well as the export from it, can only be conducted by special permit, and their importation is never allowed except in very small numbers, sufficient only to supply the *bonâ fide* demand for sporting purposes. Thus, for arms or ammunition to be shipped to the Riff, as reported to your Excellency, it would be necessary that they should first be smuggled into Gibraltar and then smuggled out again, and as a very careful watch is kept upon this traffic by revenue officers of experience, it is difficult to believe that it could be successfully accomplished.

On the other hand, there is nothing to prevent faluchos, after leaving Gibraltar, from shipping rifles and ammunition in Spain. The Gibraltar authorities have no knowledge of this being done, but it is possible that the practice exists, and it would account for the rumours that have reached your Excellency.

A considerable quantity of arms and ammunition has been seized from time to time as contraband on importation at Gibraltar, and in every case it has been of Spanish make, and owned by Spanish subjects.

Peace.

(Signed) HERBERT E. WHITE.